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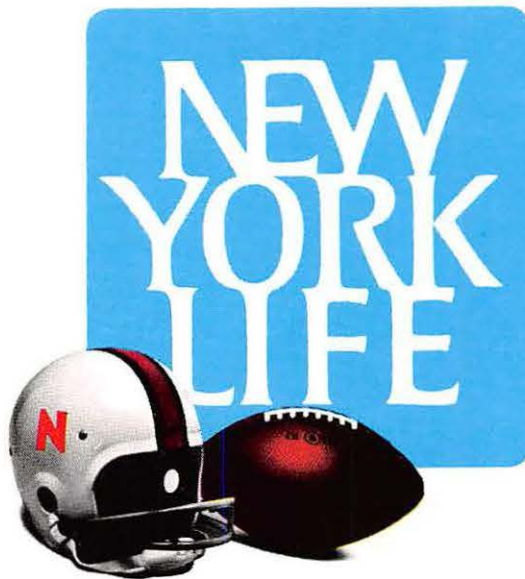
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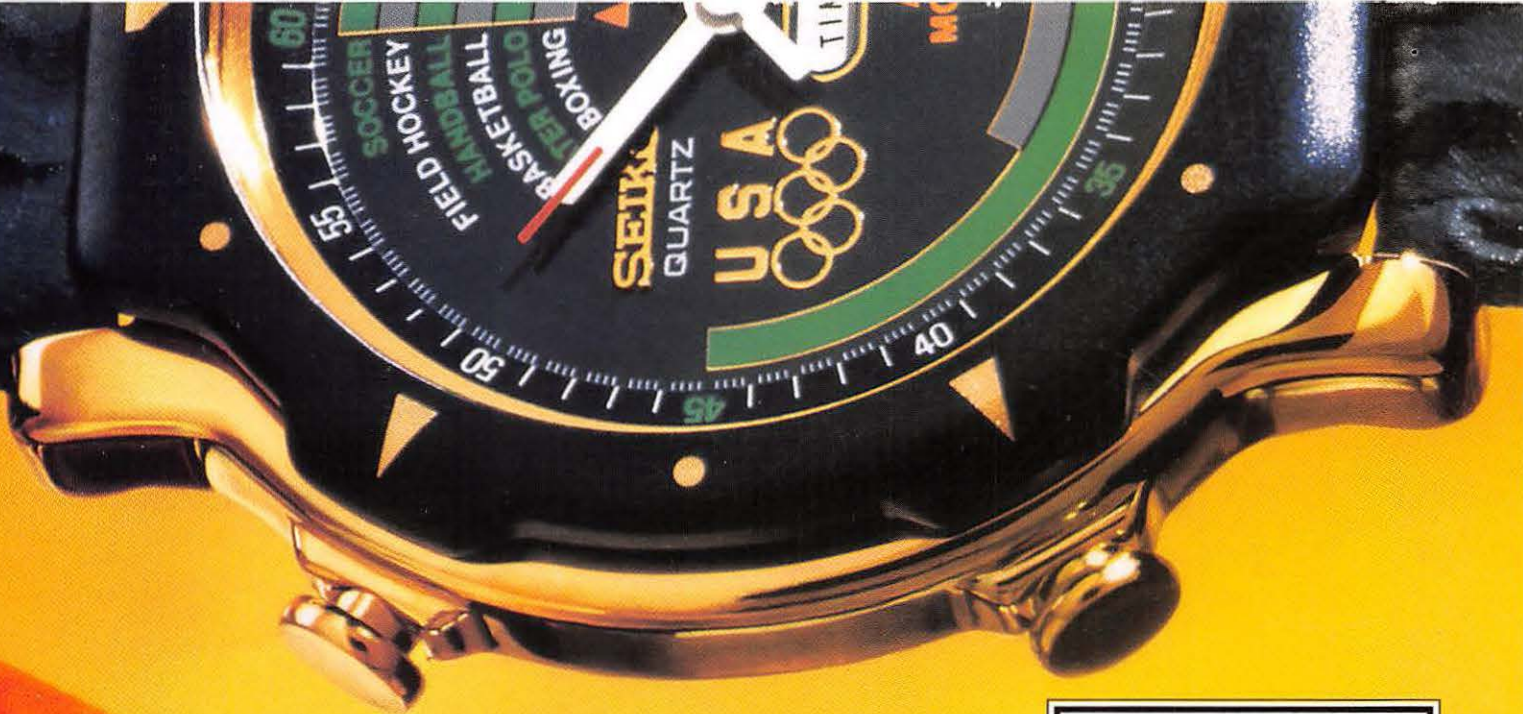


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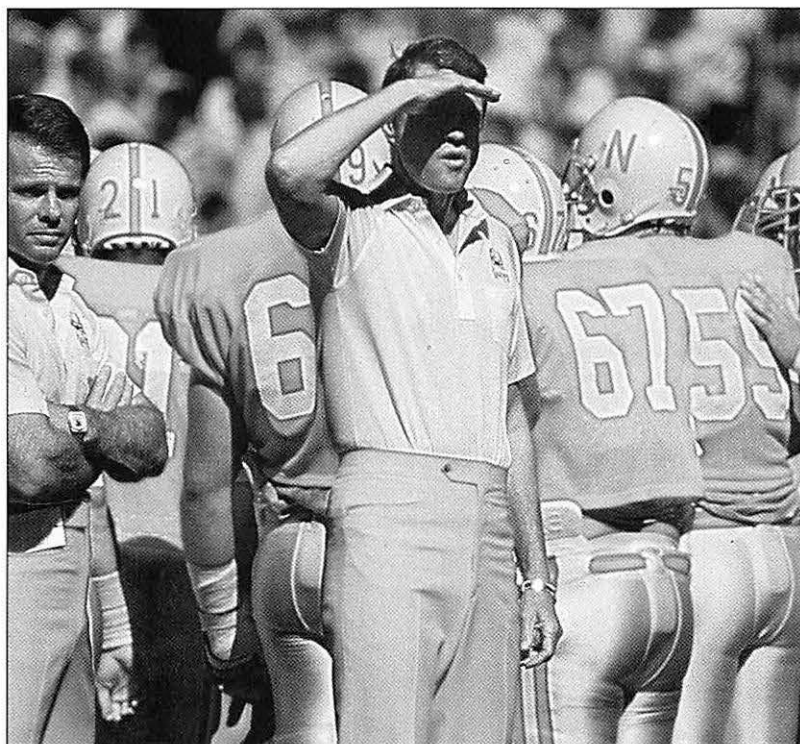
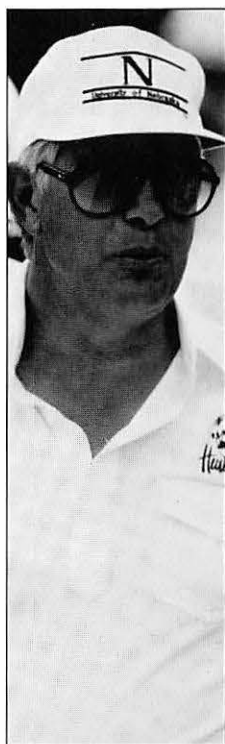
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RELUCTANT TRAVELER

I Just received my August 1991, HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED. Thank you. Needless to say, we out-of-town folks don't hear a lot of the happenings from Lincoln and Omaha newspapers. Even bits and pieces help. For instance, we had no way of knowing the Nebraska vs. Washington game was going to be televised. I purchased an airline ticket way back in June in order to get a break in prices. If I had known it was going to be on TV, I'd rather have sat at home and watched it for half the price. But I shouldn't complain, because it will be nice to see Washington get scalped and us move into the Top 10 rankings in person.

I am enclosing a picture of my good friend Offensive Line Coach Milt Tenopir and I inspecting the football field on a hot day in July. We found everything in good shape to start the games, so let's do it without delay or hesitation.

Go Big Red.

Ilmars Bergmanis
Des Plaines, Ill.

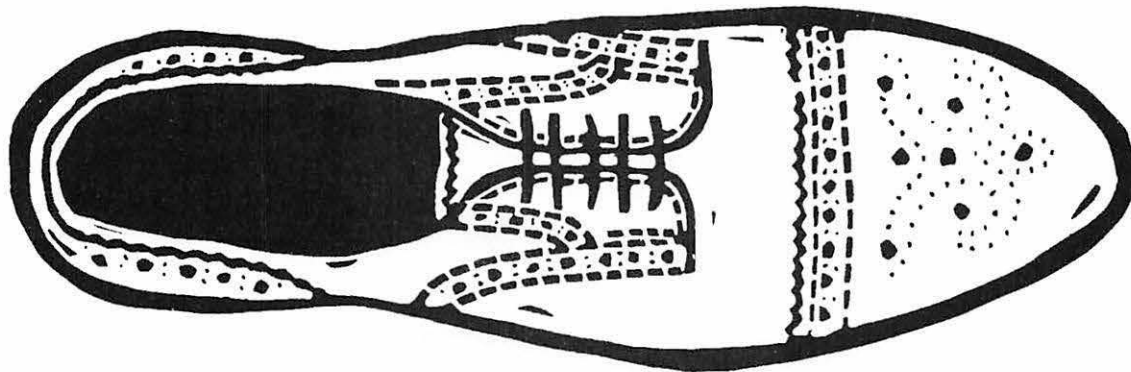
Ilmars: We would love to have been able to accommodate you, but ABC was in no rush to make up their minds as to which games in 1991 they would cover. At press time plans were still not definite for television coverage of the Arizona State and Colorado games. — Staff

**DOUBTING CRITIC**

Recently I returned to the Midwest from California where I belonged to Californians for Nebraska. I was a member of CFN for quite a number of years and I'm now joining the Kansas/Missouri alumni group.

I have spent quite a bit of time in

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says he and
Memorial Stadium
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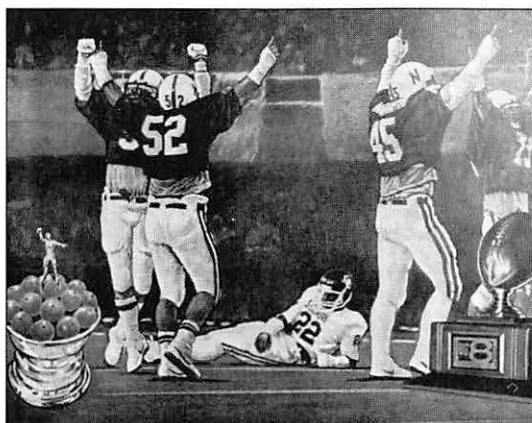
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LETTERS

Lincoln visiting my sister and brother-in-law since returning and I am disturbed to learn of the frustration the alums and fans have expressed over the past couple of years. I am also disturbed to hear that Coach Osborne has been feeling the heat.

I want Osborne to know that as an alum, I am proud of the program he has built at Nebraska. It seems to me he has created a program truly in the spirit of college athletics. I perceive the Husker program as being embodied in the student athlete and I'm thankful we don't have a program like Oklahoma, Miami or others.

I must observe that it does appear Nebraska has become somewhat more conservative in its offensive philosophy since about 1985. I hope to see that change somewhat this year. But who am I to evaluate the coach that leads the nation in winning percentage?

Keep up the good work coach! The easiest thing to be in the world is a critic. For each one of those that you have, I'm sure there are many more supporters.

Earl Grothe
Lenexa, Kan.

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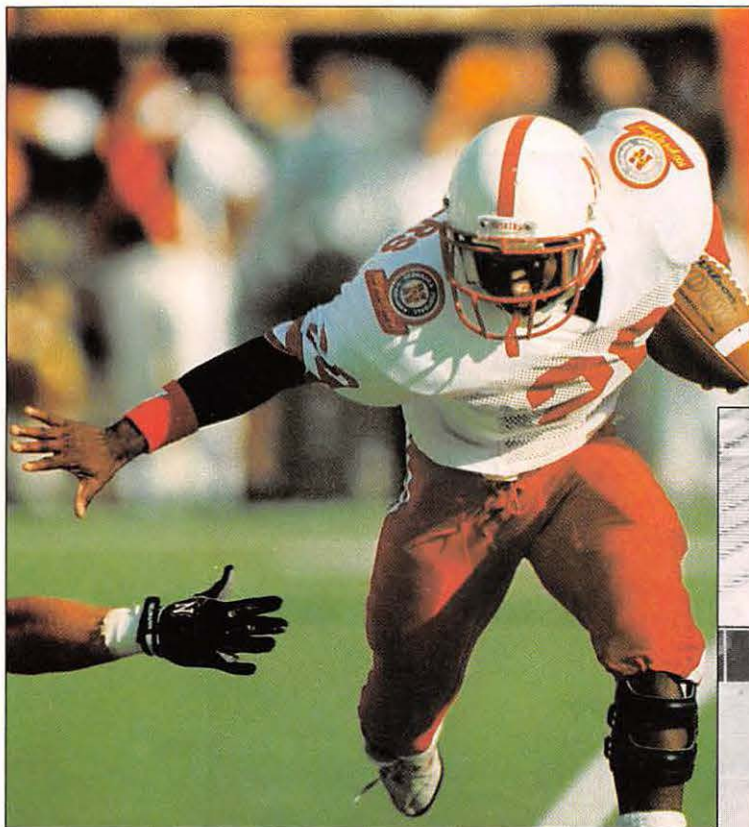
20 TWICE

I have a question concerning a certain former Nebraska football player. Can you tell me the jersey number of running back Terry Rodgers? I say he wore the same number that his father Johnny Rodgers wore, but a friend of mine said he wore No. 30 instead of No. 20 like his dad. I'm sure that I'm right, but if you could print or send me the answer, I can finally prove it to him.
Sam Kwan
Monterey Park, Calif.

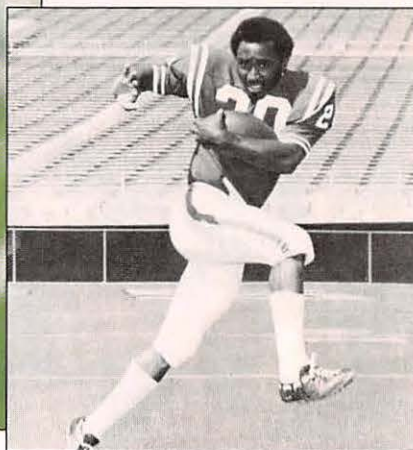
Sam: When Terry came to Nebraska in 1985 he requested changing from his high school No. 21 to No. 20. That number is the one his dad, Johnny, wore while at NU. After winning the Heisman Trophy in 1972, Johnny's number was retired. It was brought out of retirement for Terry to wear during his playing days. After having his career cut short by a knee injury, Terry left football and his dad's number was re-retired. — Staff.

HOMESICK

I moved to Tempe, Ariz., a little



Something of a family heirloom, both father, Johnny Rodgers (below) and son, Terry (left) wore the No. 20 jersey during their playing days at Nebraska.



over a year ago to move up in the company I work for. But even though I am happy in my new job, I'm starting to feel a little down now that Nebraska football is just around the corner. Listening to the games on the radio and hopefully getting to see a few games on TV will be nice, but there is no way to compare sitting on the couch to tailgate parties and Big Red fans everywhere you look. A sea of red in Memorial Stadium is an experience that probably rivals looking down into the Grand Canyon. I've done both and I know what I'm talking about.

I want Coach Osborne to know that even though I'm far away, I'll still be pulling for the Huskers this season. Maybe when we make it to the Orange Bowl this year (and we will) I'll try to fly out. Let's get OU and Colorado this year.

Tom Carrol
Tempe, Ariz.

WORD OF WARNING

I am writing this letter to all of the spoiled fans of Nebraska football. I read an article in *Don Heinrich's College Football Magazine* about how the fans are getting restless with Coach Tom Osborne. I couldn't

believe my eyes, but it did sound familiar. Isn't this the same coach that has won over 80 percent of his games since 1973? Isn't he the top winner in Big Eight history? Isn't this the same man that has won 177 games in his entire career compared to only 41 losses and two ties? This whole scenario sounds all too familiar. When are you spoiled fans going to wake up?

How about a good slap in the face of reality? I am a die hard Ohio State Buckeye fan. I was never an Earle Bruce fan, but I didn't agree with how he was fired. Was it because he didn't win enough games or was it because he could never surpass the late Woody Hayes? Although he came close, Bruce never won a national title. He did average nine wins and three losses a year, but that wasn't good enough for Ohio State. The one thing Bruce did right was beat Michigan.

Earle Bruce could not live up to Woody Hayes. That's what everyone said even though he did a heck of a job trying. It is said that no one should follow a legend. Maybe Coach Osborne won't ever be another Bob Devaney, but he is a good coach. Since Bruce was run out of town, our

program hasn't been the same. Coach John Cooper promised changes but they have been for the worse. We've lost three consecutive games to both Michigan and Illinois. OSU hasn't won a bowl game since 1986 and Cooper's record is 19-14-2 since 1988.

I recently spoke to a graduate from Colorado State University and I asked him how did the fans from Fort Collins, Colo., feel about Coach Bruce who is now the coach there. He said they have never been happier. The Rams went to their first bowl game in over 40 years and beat heavily favored Oregon 32-31.

So if you guys don't want Coach Osborne anymore then follow OSU football. We need a good coach in Columbus, Ohio. We would be honored to have him.

J.J. Reyes
Toledo, Ohio

*We want to read your comments and answer your questions. Please send them to **Letters**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. Also, help us add to the subscriber involvement. Send photos (no polaroids) of your favorite Husker fan; he or she may end up in this section. ■*

Husker Heir Apparent



Tom Osborne didn't have to look far for Nebraska's first official Assistant Head Coach in almost 18 years.

By Mike Babcock

Frank Solich was no stranger to long bus rides. But when he left his head coaching job at Lincoln Southeast High School to become the Nebraska freshman football coach, he must have figured the long rides were over. No more school buses to North Platte.

However, in order to make his debut as the Cornhuskers' junior varsity coach, Solich had to get back on a bus for a ride that made bus trips to places such as North Platte seem like a Sunday afternoon drive.

His destination was Laramie, Wyo. (North Platte was about halfway there) where his freshman-jayvees opened the season against the Wyoming junior varsity. Among those on Solich's team were scholarship freshmen Dean

Steinkuhler and Roger Craig, neither of whom started that game.

The year was 1979. And much has happened since then.

Steinkuhler, who has an Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award to show for his collegiate efforts, and Craig are both playing in the NFL. Craig has some Super Bowl rings in his trophy case.

Nebraska no longer has a freshman junior varsity team and Solich, well, he's added considerable success to his coaching resume, including a 19-1 record during his four seasons as freshman coach.

The last eight seasons, he's coached the Cornhuskers' running backs, which means he's worked with a Heisman Trophy winner in Mike Rozier, another NFL player, and several other all-conference running backs.

In fact, Solich was responsible for recruiting New Jersey and was instrumental in attracting not only Rozier but also Irving Fryar to Nebraska. Fryar became an All-American wingback with the Cornhuskers and is still playing in the NFL.

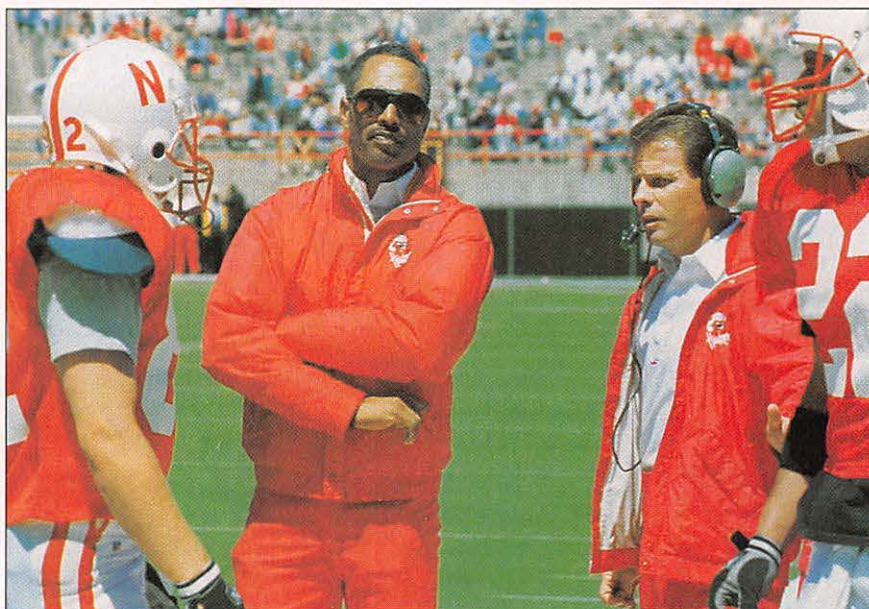
Solich has worked his way up through the coaching ranks, earning so much respect that whenever speculation over Tom Osborne's successor arises, he's invariably the first person discussed. So when Osborne announced in July that Solich had been promoted to assistant head coach, many fans were convinced that a line of succession had been established.

The reasoning went something like this: With Bob Devaney retiring as athletic director after the 1992 football season — a provision of the contract he signed over the summer — Osborne would move into the athletic director's office and, soon after, Solich would become head coach.

It all made sense to those familiar with Osborne's becoming head coach. First, some background.

Devaney planned to retire as head football coach at Nebraska after the 1971 season, with Osborne as his successor. "Tom had already been promised the job," prior to the 1971 season, Devaney said recently.

That was before the Cornhuskers went undefeated and won a second consecutive national title. After the season, there was much media discussion about the fact that no major college coach had ever won three consecutive national championships. In order to accept the challenge of trying for a



Solich talks over a play with Ed Stewart (32) during the Spring Game while Receivers Coach Ron Brown listens in.

third, Devaney had to delay his retirement for one season.

That, in turn, meant a delay in making good on the promise to Osborne. "I asked Tom if he'd mind waiting another year," said Devaney, who made Osborne his assistant head coach for the interim period. "Tom did a lot of offensive play calling anyway, so I don't think I put too much more of a burden on him."

The "assistant head coach" designation was more a good-faith gesture than an indication of added responsibility for Osborne, who had a significant role in designing the offense that produced the back-to-back national championships.

So Osborne was the assistant head coach in 1972, when Nebraska attempted to win three national titles in a row. "We didn't quite make it," Devaney said.

The Cornhuskers lost their first and last games of the regular season, and were tied in between. After Nebraska embarrassed Notre Dame in the Orange

Bowl to finish fourth in the final Associated Press poll, Devaney retired as originally planned, and Osborne was promoted.

The football team hasn't had another assistant head coach until now.

In some ways, the promotion of Solich to assistant head coach is similar to Osborne's some 20 years ago. Apparently, Osborne anticipated the con-

clusions that would be drawn. In the news release announcing the promotion, Osborne addressed the issue.

"We have given Frank the title of assistant head coach for two reasons," Osborne said. "Number one, Frank has certainly earned the job. He has done an outstanding job for a number of years in recruiting, coaching on the field and administratively in organizing our football camps and coaches' clinics.

"Secondly, a year and a half ago, Frank chose to stay at Nebraska after being offered titles at Wisconsin. At that time, I indicated to him that we would try to get him a head coaching job within two to three years. It is hoped that the title will help in this process."

Solich turned down an offer to become assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at the University of Wisconsin in January of 1990, after former Cornhusker teammate Barry Alvarez was named the Badgers' head coach. Alvarez earned a varsity letter as a sophomore linebacker in 1965, Solich's senior season.

During Solich's three varsity seasons (1963-65), Nebraska had a combined record of 29-4 and made appearances in the Orange Bowl (twice) and Cotton Bowl. Solich was a captain as a senior. The Cornhuskers went undefeated during the regular season before losing to Alabama in the Orange Bowl to finish with a No. 5 ranking in the final Associated Press poll.

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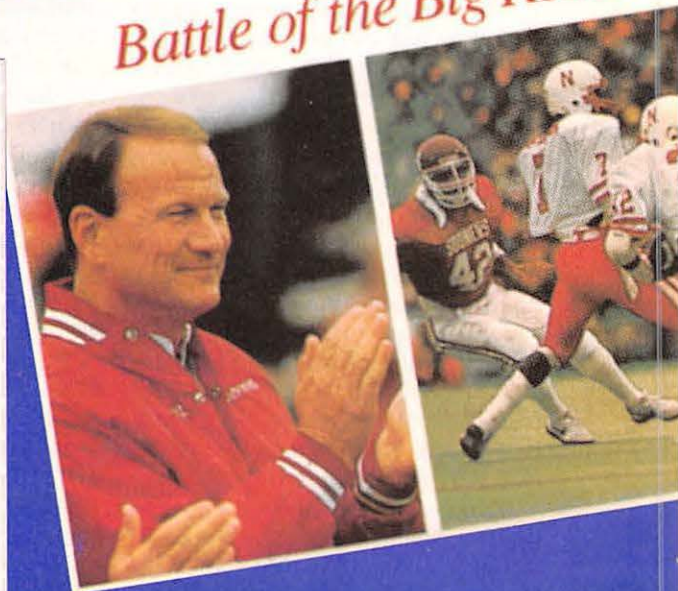
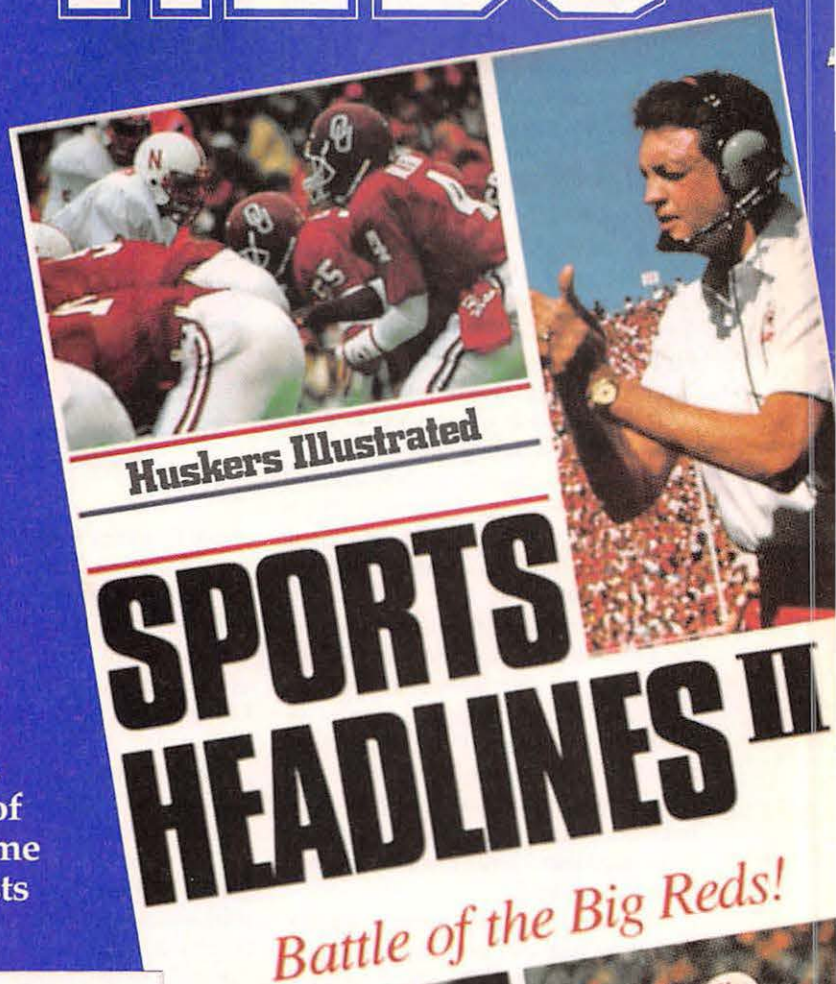
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Solich has been around from the beginning of one of the most successful eras in Nebraska football history, arriving as a member of Devaney's first recruiting class in 1962.

Solich was born in Johnstown, Pa., and lived in Smokeless, a coal mining town close by, until the sixth grade. The family moved to Cleveland because his father had contracted black lung disease working in the mines.

The way Solich remembers it, he got his early education in a one-room schoolhouse in Smokeless.

"It might have been more than one room but if it was, the other room was a closet," Solich once said.

After a difficult adjustment following the move to Cleveland Solich settled in, attending St. Ignatius elementary school, then enrolling at Holy Name High School.

Although his family lived on the west side of Cleveland and Holy Name was on the east side, "there was some recruiting going on among the Catholic schools," said Solich, a multi-sport athlete whose preference might have been baseball.

"In some ways, baseball might have been my best sport," Solich said.

But Holy Name won the city championship in football his senior year, and he was a good enough tailback to attract interest from several major colleges, among them Iowa State and Northwestern. Notre Dame showed some interest. But the Fighting Irish only offered him a partial scholarship, and it didn't offer teammate Mike Worley, a fullback, anything.

So Solich looked elsewhere.

George Kelly, then a Devaney assistant, made the first contact with Solich on Nebraska's behalf. The Cornhuskers became interested in Solich while watching films of Worley, "one of the toughest guys I've known who played the game," said Solich.

Devaney says now with a laugh that he recruited Solich only to get Worley. Whatever the reason, Solich was receptive to Nebraska's offer of a scholarship. "My folks really were comfortable with Coach Devaney," he said. "Both of them wanted me to stay around home and not play athletics, basically. But after meeting Coach Devaney, it made it easier on them with me going away to college."

At 5-foot-8 and 150-plus pounds, "a lot of schools questioned my size to play major college football."

Ohio State, for example, "didn't have

any contact with me because if you weren't a 200-pound back, they weren't interested. They had a lot of people to pick from, and I just didn't have the size to play there," said Solich.

Worley weighed 208 pounds but was only slightly taller than Solich. Schools "weren't exactly beating down our door," Solich said. "We were limited to some extent."

Solich and Worley had talked about attending the same school and eventually chose Nebraska.

Worley never got untracked as a Cornhusker. During the practice of the fall as freshmen, the coaches "had us all in sweats on natural grass. All the backs were just running basic patterns. I'd never seen the guy (Worley) hurt. He was running an out pattern and tore up a knee and was never able to come back from that," Solich said.

Solich began as a tailback at Nebraska but ended up as the smallest major college fullback in the country.

While he was playing, Solich never thought much about becoming a coach. "I just kind of took it as it came," he said. "Later in my college career, I started looking more at coaching. I knew I wanted to be involved in athletics somehow."

After completing his degree at Nebraska, Solich got a job teaching and coaching at Holy Name High School in Omaha, where he spent two years.

His first football team won two of nine games. But his second went 6-2 and defeated the No. 1 team in the state in the final game of the season. The next year, he became the head football coach at Lincoln Southeast.

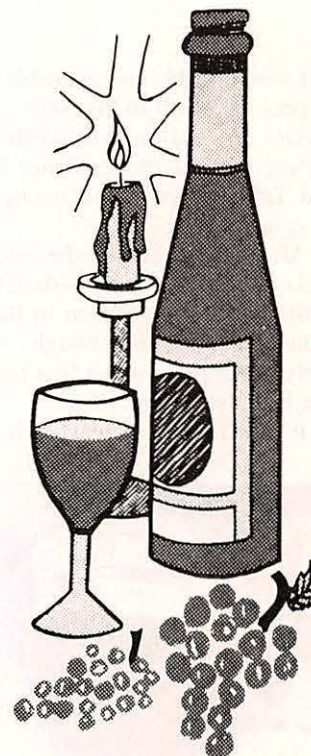
The Knights won back-to-back Class A state championships under Solich's direction, and he was named the state's prep "Coach of the Year" in 1978. In 1979, Southeast fell short of a third straight state title, losing to eventual champion Grand Island 8-7 and finishing second-ranked.

Osborne contacted Solich about joining the Nebraska staff following the 1979 season. "Two or three years prior to that I thought about trying to get into college coaching, but I didn't know how to go about it," said Solich. "After 11 years, I thought I would probably stay at Southeast."

Osborne telephoned Solich from the NCAA Convention to see if he'd be interested. "Immediately, I said, 'Sure,'" Solich said.

The long bus rides were at an end. OK. Not quite. ■

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Secondary Concern is Depth

Corners and safeties must execute in NU's defensive scheme.

By Mike Babcock

It wouldn't be unreasonable to expect a dropoff in the Nebraska secondary this season, what with the departure of cornerbacks Bruce Pickens and Tahaun Lewis and strong safety Reggie Cooper.

After all, Pickens was the third player picked in the National Football League draft; Lewis was chosen in the ninth round, and Cooper, though surprisingly not drafted, was a first-team All-Big Eight selection.

It's difficult to incur such losses.

Yet Coach Tom Osborne told the Big Eight Conference Skywriters that this year's Cornhusker secondary could be just as good as last year's. And George Darlington, who coaches the defensive backs, agreed.

"Oh yes," Darlington said recently. "We've still got some talented kids. I don't think it's a major rebuilding process."

"It would be if we had lost a tremendous number of players across the board. The fact that we lost, predominantly,

corners is obviously a little bit of a concern. We'll probably start four guys back there who have played a great deal."

Barring injury Nebraska's starting secondary, in the early season at least, figures to include Curtis Cotton and Tyrone Legette at the corners, Tyrone Byrd at free safety and Steve Carmer at strong safety.

Legette, a senior, and Byrd, a junior, have starting experience. Cotton, a senior, was a regular in the Cornhuskers' "dime" package, and Carmer, a junior, "played a great deal," said Darlington.

Legette started the final five games last season, and not just because those who had been ahead of him were injured. In fact, only two of Legette's starts were the result of an ankle injury to Lewis.

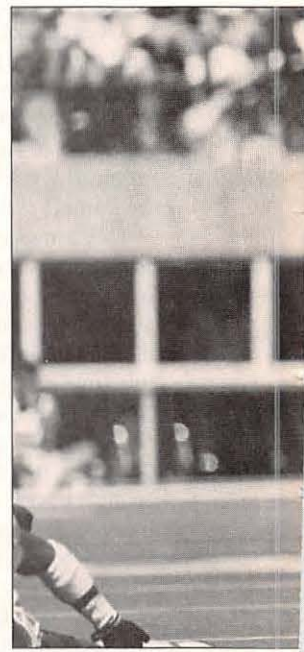
Cotton, a backup to Cooper at strong safety each of the last two seasons, was moved to left corner in spring practice. He's always turned in outstanding efforts in Nebraska's strength and conditioning tests, but he's never settled in as a starter.

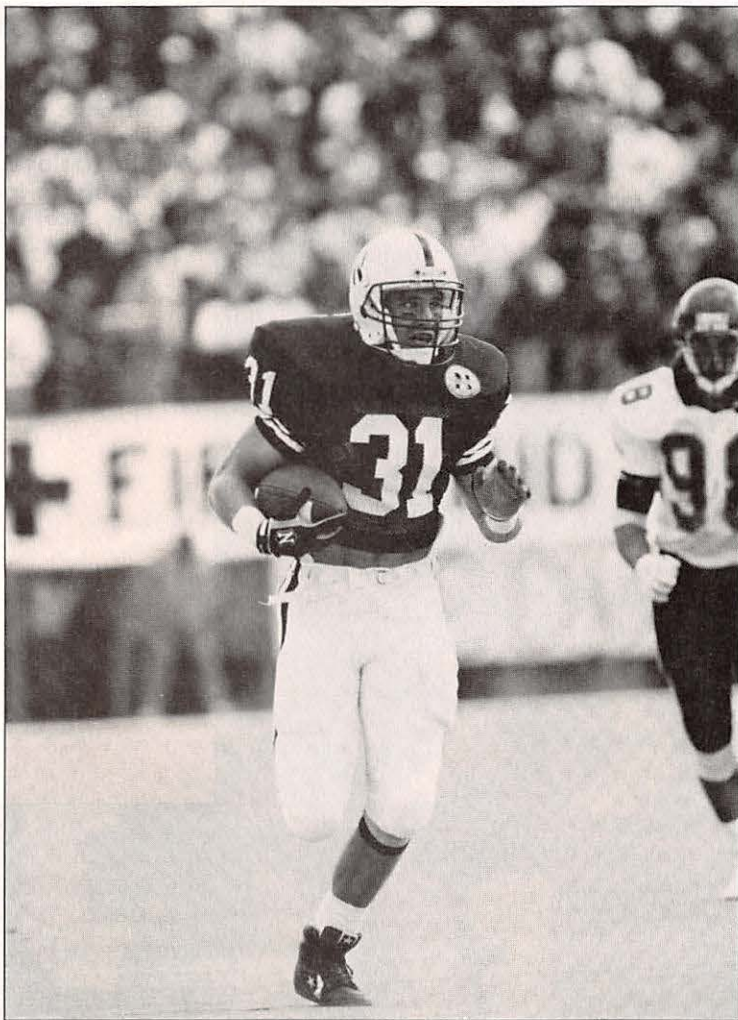
The problem was, "we always knew he was blind as a bat. But we didn't know he was as blind as about six or eight bats," Darlington said. "That hurt him as a safety. Curtis couldn't see well enough."

The 6-foot-1, 210-pound Cotton can see well enough to be effective as a cornerback even though "he doesn't look like a pure corner," Darlington said. "Curtis looks like he's out of position. He looks like a linebacker or a full-back. But he's got tremendous speed, and he's really done well."

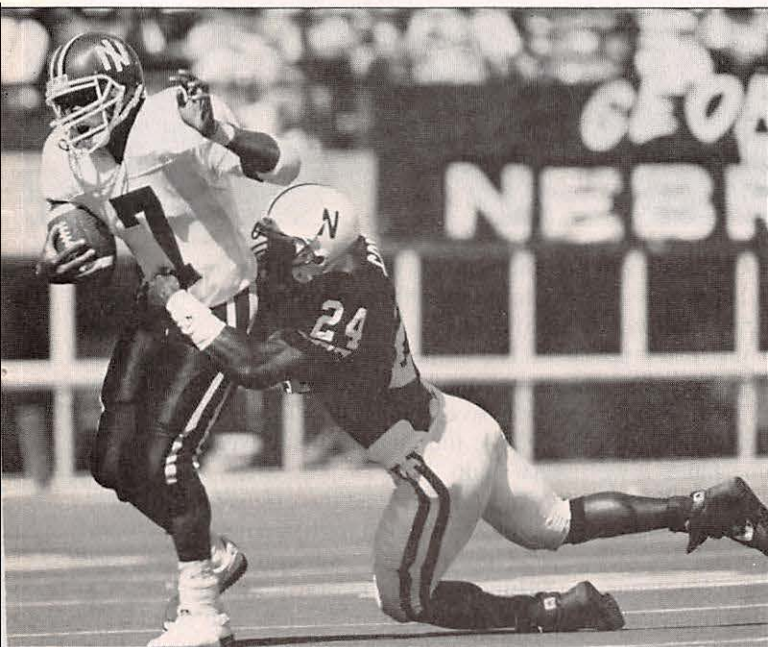
Byrd is a two-year starter and one of the

Darlington can remain calm going into the 1991 season knowing he has four able bodies to fill depleted spots on the secondary depth chart.





Carmer used spring practice to move from Byrd's backup to a starter at strong safety.



Curtis may be a left corner, but he owns the look of a linebacker.

most experienced players on Nebraska's defense. He led the Cornhuskers and ranked third in the conference with five interceptions last season. He is on pace to break the school career record of 15 interceptions set by Dana Stephenson from 1967 to 1969.

Bill Kosch's career record of 233 return yards via the interception also is within Byrd's reach.

Even so, Byrd's strength is run support. Despite his size—6-0, 180 pounds—he's an aggressive tackler. He tied tackle Joe Sims for eighth on the team last season with 41 total, including 15 unassisted.

Byrd started every game a year ago and shared the team lead in causing fumbles (four) with outside linebacker Mike Croel. Croel was the fourth player picked in the NFL draft. One of the fumbles Byrd caused resulted in a 21-yard loss for Colorado tailback Eric Bieniemy, who finished just 14 yards behind last season's NCAA rushing leader, Gerald Hudson of Oklahoma State.

Byrd was credited with a career-high nine tackles in the Cornhuskers' 27-12 loss against Colorado and earned all-conference honorable mention.

Despite the loss of three solid players, Byrd is optimistic about the potential of this season's secondary. "We aren't worried about the talent," he said recently. "We've got a lot of good talent. And I've been on teams where we didn't have that much talent. But if we came together, we were successful."

Carmer was a backup to Byrd last season but was moved to strong safety during the spring. He's made a successful transition. "We're very pleased," Darlington said.

"Actually, we're going to have a pretty experienced first group (in the secondary)," said Darlington. "The concern is the second."

"As every coach at almost any school in the country will say right now, the big concern is who's No. 2 and who's No. 3 at each position. You want the quality guys who can go in and play and win for you if No. 1 goes down."

The backups are inexperienced. Cornerbacks Kenny Wilhite, a junior college transfer who redshirted last season, and Vernon Powell both are converted wingbacks.

Ernie Beler, one of the top backups at strong safety, is a junior college transfer who enrolled second semester a year ago and went through spring practice. Troy Dumas, another candidate for

playing time at strong safety, is a true freshman.

Among the top free safeties behind Byrd are John Reece, who sat out last season while recovering from knee surgery, and Lorenzo Brinkley who's coming off a redshirt season.

Reece has experience. He was a "dime" substitute as a true freshman two years ago. He's not quite back to full speed yet, according to Darlington.

"John's pretty much back," Darlington said. "He's not the fastest secondary player on our team like he was two years ago before he got hurt. But he's approaching it."

Wilhite is probably the most notable of the backups. He could be a starter by season's end, according to Darlington. His problem has been injury, specifically a pulled hamstring during spring drills that has slowed his development.

Darlington is generous in his praise of Wilhite, a 5-8, 175-pound junior from St. Louis by way of Dodge City Community College, where he was a junior college All-American as a sophomore — at quarterback.

"Kenny Wilhite has a chance to be a starter and that's not including injuries. Obviously, with injuries his chances improve. But he's got a chance to be a starter up front. He's got everything we're looking for in a corner," Darlington said.

That Wilhite was a Wishbone quarterback in junior college is evidence of his athletic ability. "If Darian Hagan were here and wanted to play corner, Darian Hagan could play corner. Kenny can play corner. He can play quarterback in the Wishbone or receiver. He has tremendous quickness. He's a very talented athlete," Darlington said.

"The only thing is, we had to baby him along a little in fall camp because he couldn't cut loose. You hate to say what the NFL is going to do, but I wouldn't be surprised in two years if Kenny makes a pot full of money."

Legette and Cotton also might have a chance to play in the NFL, according to Darlington. "Maybe, neither one of them will be first-round picks next year, but they also may not be eighth-round picks," he said.

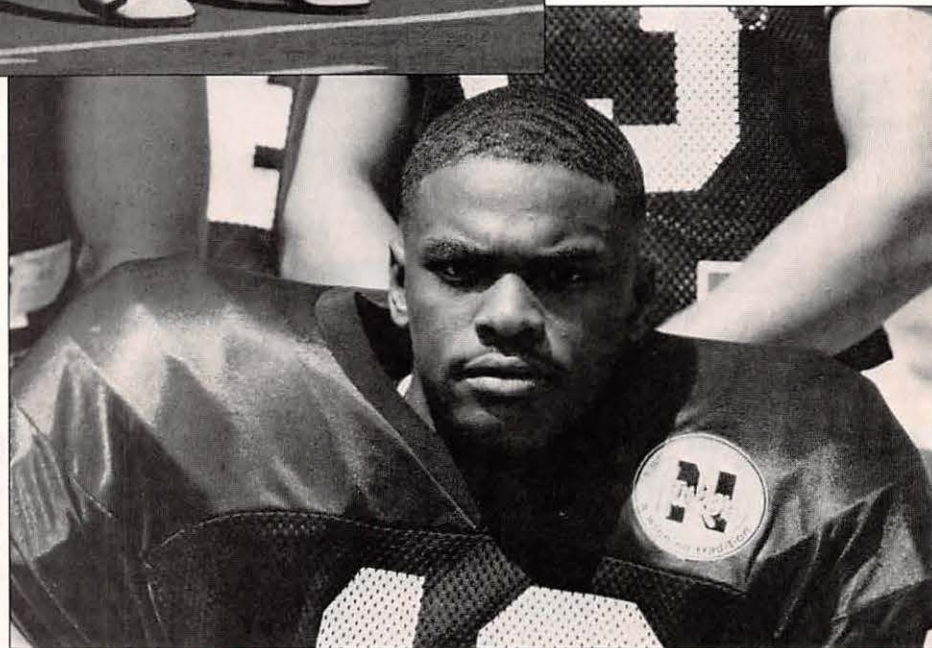
"They may be somewhere closer to ones than eights."

With an increased emphasis on passing in the college game, defensive backs are at a premium.

"When they (the NCAA) changed the rules it just made for a different game," Darlington said. "Not to knock anybody, but I've got a bunch of kids



Legette (left) provides starter experience at the corner and Kenny Wilhite (below) has the ability to move into the starting rotation.



right now, and they're all third- and fourth-teamers.

"They're just as dedicated and work just as hard. But you just can't get away with using them anymore.

"Because pass blocking rules give teams more time to throw the ball, they figure, 'We can win some games if we just get a bunch of largebutts who can hold a quarterback and a bunch of little rug rats to run routes.'"

In Nebraska's defensive scheme, considerable mental pressure is placed on the safeties. They "signal to the

corners on every play," said Darlington. "The safeties have to know it (the system) cold.

"The corners, from a mental standpoint, could know nothing other than four or five signals and play super football. We literally tell them every play what to do."

The safeties read the offensive formations and signal to the corners.

"That's our scheme," said Darlington. "The reason we do it that way is, there are so many multiple sets, if I'm a left corner I can't be sure what

the formation is."

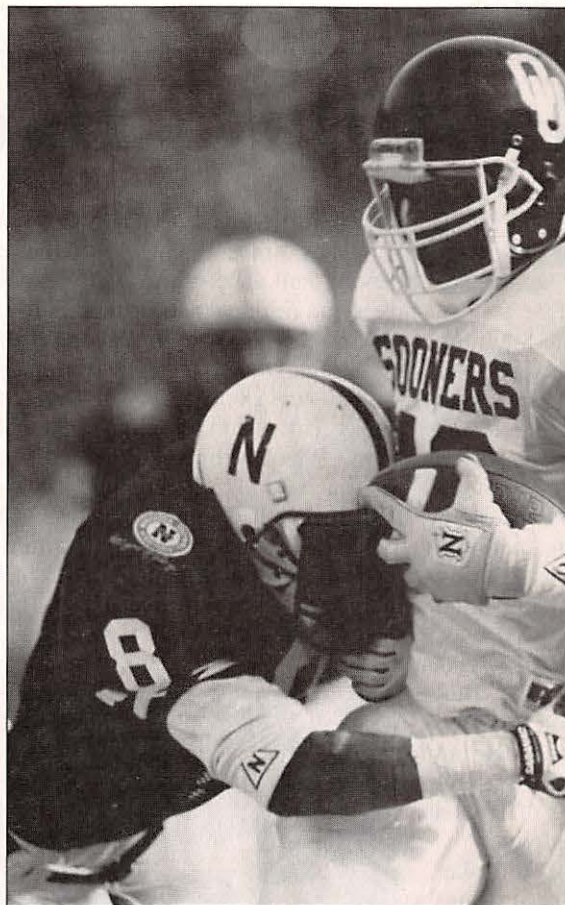
Safeties have to be able to do more than identify offensive formations and provide run support of course. If safeties can't cover pass receivers, offenses can create mismatches by forcing man-to-man coverage.

"That's why Byrd's, as well as Carmer's, pass coverage has got to be just about as good as our corners because we can't control where a team lines up. We can't bastardize coverages to get guys away from people who can run," Darlington said.

As for reading offensive formations, Byrd has proven himself adept at that. He's the quarterback of the defense, with one more year's worth of maturity.

Nebraska's secondary was hit hard by the NFL draft. About that there can be little question. Some talented athletes are gone.

But the cupboard wasn't left bare, according to Darlington. For one thing, the Cornhuskers have experienced starters. For another, successful defense depends on more than athletic ability. "The whole thing is execution," Darlington said. ■



Byrd's 6-0, 180 pound frame hasn't kept him from being labeled an aggressive tackler.

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Good Day...Bad Day

Whether or not Nebraska's 59-28 victory over Utah State was reason for optimism about the 1991 season depends on your perspective.

The game at Memorial Stadium, consecutive sellout No. 176, was a good news, bad news debut for Coach Tom Osborne's 19th team. For example, the good news was, Keithen McCant played well at quarterback. The bad news was, McCant got into the game because of Mickey Joseph's problems passing. That's how it went. For everything good, there seemed to be something bad about the opener.

Derek Brown rushed for 175 yards on 23 carries, which was good. But, Brown played because Scott Baldwin suffered a severe ankle sprain scoring Nebraska's first touchdown on a 29-yard run. Baldwin had runs of 10 and six yards prior to the touchdown.

The good news was, Cornhusker fullback Omar Soto carried seven times for 86 yards. The bad news was, Lance Lewis, who shares the job with Soto, strained an ankle and knee. The good news was, Nebraska's young defense limited Utah State to 48 net-yards rushing. The bad news was, Aggie quarterback Ron Lopez passed for 373 yards and three touchdowns. Get the picture?

None of the good news/bad news elements of the opener, which was delayed 19 minutes in the third quarter by lightening, seemed to be of more interest to Cornhusker fans than the one involving the quarterbacks.

Throughout the spring and fall, there has been much discussion about who is best suited to direct the offense. Joseph, who started eight games last season and was chosen as one of Nebraska's captains this fall, won the job after coming back from the leg injury he suffered against Oklahoma.

But Joseph lasted little more than one quarter against Utah State before giving way to McCant. Joseph's undoing was his passing. On the Cornhuskers' first play from scrimmage, Joseph faked a handoff and rolled out, away from the offensive flow, in the same direction as wingback Nate Turner, who was wide open. But Joseph's pass was off target. Joseph threw five more passes during the first quarter. One was good

for 22 yards and a touchdown, with wingback Vincent Hawkins on the receiving end. The others were incomplete and decidedly so. Joseph threw a seventh pass early in the second quarter. Again, Turner was open. And again, the ball was poorly thrown. Then Joseph was sacked and fumbled the ball away. When Nebraska regained possession, with 11:53 remaining in the half, Joseph was replaced by McCant.

"Mickey obviously had trouble throwing the ball in the first half, which really surprised me because he had thrown the ball well in practice,"



Joseph: "I wasn't having a good day..."

Osborne said in explaining his decision to go with McCant, a redshirted senior from Grand Prairie, Texas. "I think maybe he had read and heard so much about not being a passer that he was trying too hard."

Joseph's limitations as a passer, including his inability to grip the ball

because of small hands, has been a topic of discussion since last season's loss against Colorado. Against Utah State, "he was pushing the ball rather than throwing it," said Osborne. "He also worries a little when the ball is wet."

Even before it rained in the opener that was a consideration. Nebraska waters the artificial turf at Memorial Stadium to improve traction. Even so, "we practice every day on a wet field," Osborne said.

Joseph, who directed the Cornhuskers to 17 points on their first three possessions, made no excuses.

"I wasn't having a good day as far as throwing the ball," he said. "We had to probably go with somebody else. He (Osborne) just said he was going to go with Keithen for a while."

McCant finished out the second quarter and started the second half. McCant was as up-beat as Joseph was subdued during the post-game interviews. Finally, after four years of waiting, McCant had gotten a chance to show what he could do. "I feel like I did pretty well," he said. "But I still need to iron some things out."

Pretty well? McCant wasted no time in showing he could pass. Though his first pass, on his seventh snap, fell incomplete, it was because tight end Johnny Mitchell appeared to lose concentration. The ball was on target. McCant came right back with a pass on the next play, completing it to split end Jon Bostick for a 12-yard gain. The crowd cheered. McCant finished with six completions in 10 attempts for 101 yards and a touchdown, teaming with Mitchell on a 27-yarder midway through the second quarter. He also ran for 87 yards and a touchdown on nine carries. During his three previous seasons, the 6-foot-2, 205-pound McCant had thrown a total of three passes, two of them complete for 32 yards, and rushed eight times for 75 yards.

"Keithen did a nice job. He handled himself well," Osborne said. "He obviously has all the physical skills we're looking for. He's got size, he's got speed and a pretty good arm. He audibled a fair amount. He seemed to have good judgment on what he did."

McCant was understandably nervous, lining up once behind guard Will Shields instead of the center. "He (Shields) told me to scoot over and get behind the center," McCant said with a smile. But the only obvious mistake McCant made came just before half-time, when he was intercepted on a second-and-three from the Utah State 24-yard line.

"His timing was off," said Osborne. "He went to his second receiver late, and they picked the ball off. 'Obviously, he should have thrown the ball away, and we'd at least have had a field goal. Other than that, I thought he played well.'"

In contrast to Joseph, whose strength is running the option, McCant comes from a passing background. His final two seasons in high school, he passed for nearly 3,000 yards and 26 touchdowns.

"I love to throw the ball," said McCant. "I'm a complete quarterback. That's the key word. I had to learn the option, and I'm not going to say I'm magnificent at it, but I'm comfortable with it." Joseph came back in the fourth quarter and completed all three passes he threw. "I just tried to complete them," he said. Earlier, his passes "were falling short. It was my fault. Maybe I was trying too hard."

"I wasn't concentrating. I was pushing the ball out there, basically shortarming it. I figure any quarterback, if he has a bad quarter, he's going to be replaced. We've got to do what's best for the team."

Osborne said he would wait to decide whether McCant or Joseph would start the next game against Colorado State. "Keithen obviously played well enough that he deserves a chance to play. Whether he starts next week or not, I don't know."

"Whatever happens, happens," said McCant. "We'll see."

Osborne hasn't written off Joseph. "Mickey will be all right. He was struggling, but he's really a poised and confident guy," Osborne said. "He'll come back."

So will Haase, who will rejoin the competition when his ankle is healed. The senior walkon from Aurora, Neb., probably could have played against Utah State. But Osborne didn't want to take a chance. Haase was only 85 per-

cent, and if he got hit on that ankle, he probably would have been out another couple of weeks.

Passing was a topic of conversation after Saturday's game, not only as it related to the competition between Joseph and McCant but also because of Nebraska's apparent commitment to throwing more. At the end of his news conference following the game, Osborne pointed out that the Cornhuskers had run 98 plays with 21 of them passes.

"So we're throwing the heck out of it," he said. Except for Joseph's problems and McCant's one interception, Nebraska did little else wrong throwing. The Cornhuskers' final touchdown with 1:22 remaining, came on a 1-yard pass from quarterback Todd Gragnano to tight end Billy Wade. The play was the result of a breakdown in communication.

"I apologized to (Utah State coach) Chuck Shelton for that pass," Osborne said. "It was an 'iso' play, and by the time it got to the huddle, it became an 'iso-pass.'"

Utah State responded with a touchdown pass of its own, when Lopez

teamed up with Rod Moore for 51 yards, with 38 seconds remaining. Moore finished with 12 catches for 220 yards and three touchdowns. Utah State's 373 passing yards and 16 first downs passing were both records for regular-season games against Nebraska.

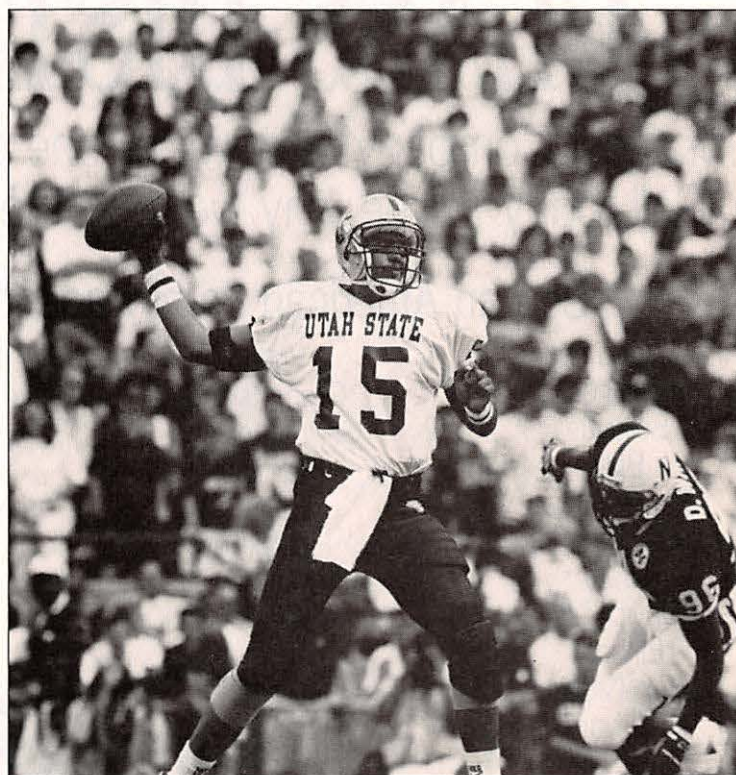
"We stopped the run pretty well, but it's those big plays. Always, those big plays; they're tearing us up," said Charlie McBride, the Cornhusker defensive coordinator.

"We'd like to do better than that," Osborne said of the pass defense. "We're a little limited in some of the things we had in. I think the guy (Lopez) is a pretty good thrower. He was good enough to pick a zone apart. He certainly didn't have any vision problems, and they did a good job of protecting him." The 6-5 Lopez used a three-step drop to avoid being sacked and picked apart the Cornhusker zones.

"We're a little limited in some of the things we had in," said Osborne. "In the base defenses we were strictly zone."

That was some of the bad news coming out of the opener.

Still, "we won," Joseph said. "That's the best thing." ■



Lopez was good enough to pick a zone apart.



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Stormy Weather Forces Delay in First Win

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's 59-28 season opening victory against Utah State Saturday was a first in so many ways.

The Cornhuskers' first win in their 102nd football season featured seven first-time NU starters, an NCAA record for first downs, at least seven big-play

firsts for Huskers and a historic game delay.

Offensively, Nebraska rolled up impressive numbers against a defense that NU Coach Tom Osborne expected to be somewhat stingy. The Black Shirts' performance did not impress, but did not cause major concerns either.

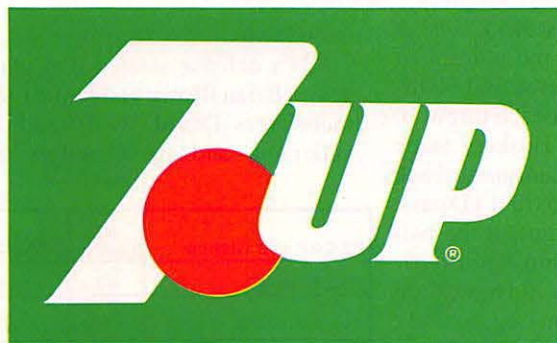
"It was a typical first game," Osborne said. "We obviously have a lot of things to shake down and improve. The good thing was, we didn't make so terribly many mistakes that we lost the game."

Nebraska — rated 14th according to *Associated Press* — opened a 17-0 lead

Fullback Omar Soto added to the Huskers' massive ground attack as he racked up 86 yards including this 62-yard romp.



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late in the first quarter and amassed 787 total yards, fourth-most in school history and highest total since the Scoring Explosion of 1983 that totaled 790 against Minnesota.

The Huskers established a new NCAA record for first downs with 44, breaking the old mark of 43 set by Nebraska Sept. 18, 1982, against New Mexico State.

Sophomore I-back Derek Brown led 14 NU ball carriers with a career-high 175 yards on 23 carries, the third-most opening-game performance by a Husker runner, behind the 189 by All-American Bobby Reynolds against Indiana in 1950 and the 179 by Jarvis Redwine versus Utah in 1980.

"I don't feel as though I had a great day today," Brown said. "I know I can do more. I think there's a lot of room for improvement for the whole team."

Brown entered the game earlier than expected — on NU's second series — after starter Scott Baldwin injured an ankle at the end of his 29-yard touchdown run that completed the first Nebraska possession.

After beginning the season with a stock pile of running backs, the Huskers exited game one with three on the banged up list: Baldwin, Brown and fullback Lance Lewis.

Fullback Omar Soto gained 86 yards, including a 62-yard gallop, against the 0-2 Aggies, while redshirt freshman I-back Calvin Jones carried 14 times for 81 yards and his first two career touchdowns and senior George Achola totaled 52 yards on 8 rushes.

"Even though we have a lot of good backs, you start running out of them in a hurry," Osborne said. "Before it's all over, we'll need all the guys we've got."

Like the I-back position, the quarterback race became even more congested with Saturday's performances.

Mickey Joseph earned the top spot following fall practice, but struggled early Saturday by failing to complete six of his first seven passes, including several to wide open receivers.

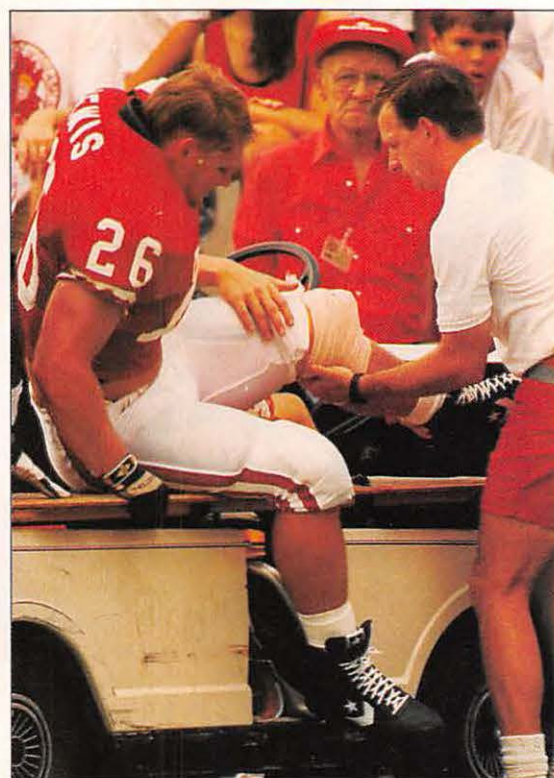
With second-team quarterback Tom Hasse still nursing a sprained ankle, fifth-year senior Keithen McCant got the call early in the second quarter and "handled things well," according to Osborne.

McCant engineered a 12-play, 80-

yard scoring march on his first possession, which he completed by throwing his first career touchdown pass to tight end Johnny Mitchell.

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound McCant scored his first career rushing touchdown on a 12-yard run early in the third stanza and finished with 87 yards on 9 carries.

"I thought Keithen did a nice job, considering the fact that he had never really played when it was still in doubt," Osborne said. "He obviously has all of the physical skills we're looking for."



One of the casualties for the Huskers on the day was fullback Lance Lewis.

Since the end of last season, Husker coaches have promised the addition of more passing in the offense and Saturday Joseph and McCant each threw 10 passes. Nine different Huskers made catches and even freshman quarterback Todd Gragnano tossed his first TD pass.

Nebraska's offense turned the ball over three times, all within Aggie territory, or the point total could have been higher. The visitors from Logan, Utah, stayed in contention with an offense that combined with Nebraska for 1,280 total yards, the most ever in a Cornhusker game.

Utah State cut its deficit to 24-14 by halftime and remained within 31-20 midway through the third quarter thanks

to an effective passing attack.

Aggie quarterback Ron Lopez completed 23 of 41 passes on the day for 373 yards, a single-game, regular-season record versus Nebraska, in an offense that features a three-step drop.

"As far as an overall passing attack, that may be the best one we see this year," said NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride.

Utah State split end Rod Moore caught 12 passes for 220 yards, single-game individual high against Nebraska during the Osborne era, and three

touchdowns.

NU's defense started five players: tackles Brian Brown and Jamie Liewer, linebackers David White and Mike Anderson, and strong safety Steve

RECAP at a Glance	9/7 Utah St.	SEASON AVG.
First Downs	43	43
Yards Rushing	617	617
Yards Passing	170	170
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	2-2
Time of Possession	16:12	16:12
Third Down Conversions	3-7	3-7
Final Score	59	59



Rain didn't slow down free safety Tyrone Byrd as he still managed five tackles.

"We're naturally a run-oriented defensive team," Engelbert said.

Nebraska broke open the game with 28 unanswered points in the second half, although less than half of Memorial Stadium's 76,115 fans stayed to watch. The 176th consecutive sellout crowd

began the day in 89 degree temperatures that resulted in shirtless observers and heat-related medical problems.

Clouds from the southwest were

Carmer, for the first time ever and Curtis Cotton for the first time at cornerback. Four of the top five cornerbacks from 1990 graduated.

"It was definitely a test for us early on," said Carmer, who along with Kenny Wilhite recorded their first career interceptions. "I think it's a good one because it kind of forces you to see what you've got."

Utah State succeeded through the air against the Black Shirts, but found little room on the ground.

Nebraska limited the Aggies to just 48 yards on 23 carries, with the nation's sixth-leading rusher of a year ago, Roger Grant, managing only 26 yards on 9 rushes.

"They didn't run the ball worth anything; that's the big thing," McBride said. "We shut them down so well on the run that we just flat went to the dime."

Linebackers Travis Hill and Mike Petko led the Black Shirts with six tackles each, while Cotton and free safety Tyrone Byrd each recorded five.

"We didn't play exceptionally well, but we didn't play bad," said middle guard Pat Engelbert.

The Huskers played Saturday without their top two defensive tackles, Kevin Ramaekers and John Parrella.

After becoming frustrated with the

fact they could not sack Lopez, the Black Shirts will welcome this week's game with running team Colorado State.



McCant found himself in the spotlight after he replaced starter Mickey Joseph in the first quarter.





MEMORIES

NEBRASKA 59

UTAH STATE 28

September 7, 1991

Keithen McCant eludes two Utah State defenders enroute to the Huskers' first win of the 1991 season.

The passing game was the only attack the Aggies had going for them. Utah State managed 373 yards through the air.

dumping sheets of rain on the stadium midway through the third stanza and after Jones' first TD run, referee Steve Usechek sent both teams to the safety of their locker rooms.

Lightning surrounded Memorial Stadium and forced a 19-minute delay before play was resumed at 3:43 p.m. with 2:10 left in the third quarter.

"I had heard that Tom Osborne had a lot of power in Nebraska, but I think he overdid it a little today," said Utah State Coach Chuck Shelton, referring to the rainstorm.

NU officials could not recall a football game ever being delayed because of weather. Saturday's storm repre-

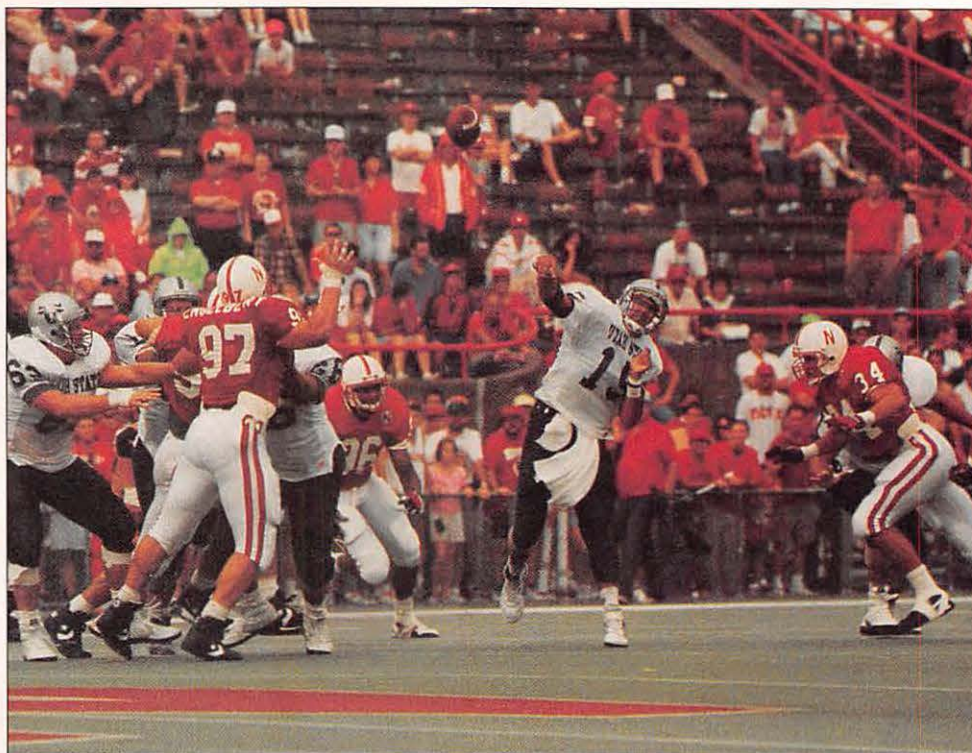
sented the first measurable precipitation in Lincoln since early July and prompted fans to hurriedly leave the stadium.

During the break, fans raced on the field and slid on the rain-soaked turf before police escorted them back to the stands. Fan enthusiasm seemed to in-

crease with the rain, as did the players'.

"That got us going," Carmer said. "We were really excited, really pumped."

Brown concurred. "The crowd got excited because that's not what they expected," he said. "We need the crowd to be with us."



Tyrone Legette did his best to slow down the Aggies' aerial attack.

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska 59, Utah State 28

Utah State	7	7	6	8	28
Nebraska	17	7	16	19	59

NU — Baldwin 29 run (Bennett kick).
 NU — Hawkins 22 pass from Joseph (Bennett kick).
 NU — Bennett 32 yard field goal.
 USU — Tigert 1 run (Beach kick).
 NU — Mitchell 27 pass from McCant (Bennett kick).
 USU — Moore 44 pass from Lopez (Beach kick).
 NU — McCant 12 run (Bennett kick).
 USU — Moore 12 pass from Lopez.
 NU — Bennett 37 yard field goal.
 NU — Jones 3 run.
 NU — Jones 2 run.
 NU — Joseph 10 run.
 NU — Wade 1 pass from Grango (Sieler kick).
 USU — Moore 51 yard pass from Lopez (Hampton on pass).

Attendance: 76,115

Two of the several Nebraska Cornhuskers who had career firsts against Utah State Saturday earned Player of the Game honors.

Keithen McCant replaced NU starting quarterback Mickey Joseph early in the second quarter and responded well during his first action as a Husker in an early-game situation.

The fifth-year senior from Grand Prairie, Tex., guided Nebraska on a 12-play, 80-yard scoring drive in his first series. He climaxed the march with his first TD pass as a Cornhusker, a 27-yard strike to tight end Johnny Mitchell.

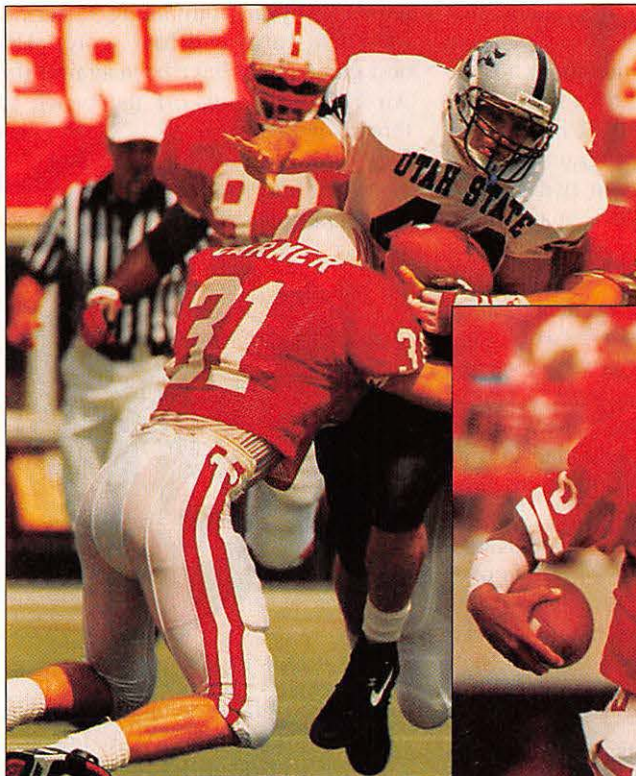
McCant, who completed the first half and started the second, finished the day with 101 yards on 6-of-10 passing and one interception. He also gained 87 rushing yards on 9 carries, including his first career touchdown on a 12-yard run early in the third period.

Prior to Saturday, McCant had 32 career passing yards at Nebraska and 75 rushing yards.

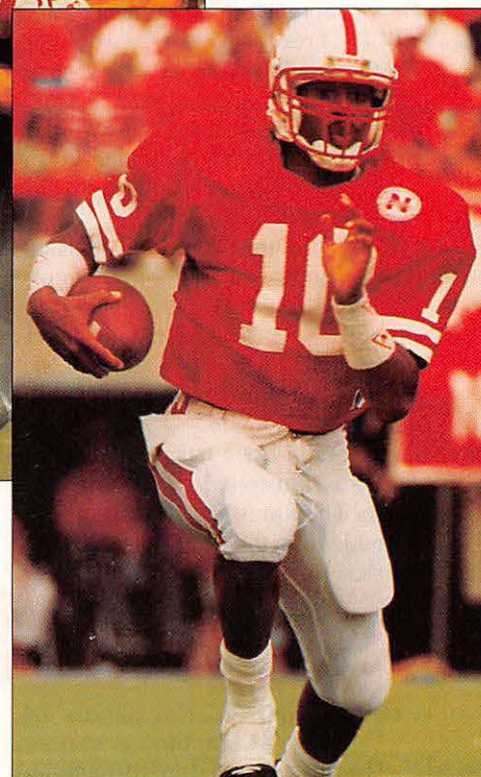
"Other than the interception, I feel like I did pretty well," McCant said. "I still have a long way to go."

I-back Derek Brownred his compliments: "I was really impressed with the way Keithen played," Brown said. "It was just a matter of time. Like Gdowski, you didn't hear about him for three years and then..."

Junior strong safety Steve Carmer was among a host of new Black Shirts Saturday, and he recorded his first career interception. Carmer leaped to pick



Steve Carmer



Keithen McCant

off a long Ron Lopez pass late in the third quarter after the Aggies had reached midfield.

"I was supposed to cover the deep middle and I saw him release the ball," Carmer said. "I broke on the ball, but it was the coverage that got me there."

Carmer, from Weston, Neb., recorded just one tackle, but broke up two passes during a busy day for the Husker secondary. ■

E X C E L L E N C E



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If you want to talk about amazing rebuilding jobs, the first name that should pop up is Earle Bruce.

The 60-year-old mentor who has also had stints at Northern Iowa, Ohio State, Iowa State and the University of Tampa, inherited a program that had only won two games in two seasons while losing 21. Two years later, Colorado State emerged the victor against Oregon in the seventh Freedom Bowl, capping off a 9-4 campaign.

"The Freedom Bowl was a big boost for the whole school as far as spirit," Bruce said. "Colorado State is a well-kept secret. We're getting the word out that Colorado State is coming into its own. The 1990s are going to be good for Colorado State football."

1991 has been so-so for the Rams. After opening with a 38-24 victory over visiting Arkansas State, the Rams dropped a 31-26 decision to the Air Force. CSU had a 14-7 lead at the half but was victimized by two quick third-quarter touchdowns.

Colorado State has a balanced offense, as illustrated by the Air Force game. The Rams had 157 yards on the ground while throwing for 255. Quarterback Kevin Verdugo (6-3, 210, sr.)

is an effective leader. He started six games last year, completing 93 aerals for 1,188 yards and four scores. His best game might have been against the Air Force, coming off the bench to throw for 172 yards on 14 of 18 passing. Verdugo hit on 11 of 19 passes for 144 yards and two scores against Air Force and connected for two scores last week.



Verdugo's favorite target should be split end Greg Primus (5-11, 172, jr.), who hauled in a team-leading 56 catches for 1,008 yards last year. Primus began the 1991 campaign by grabbing two passes for 30 yards against Arkansas

State and hauling in a 30-yard score against Air Force. At flanker, Verdugo has two targets in senior Mark Holmes (6-0, 186) and junior Billy Gonzalez (5-10, 187). Holmes led the way against Arkansas State with four catches for 73 yards and one touchdown while Gonzalez had two receptions for 19 yards. Gonzalez added a 15-yard scoring catch against Air Force. Last season, the two combined for 373 yards and 24 catches.

In the backfield, Bruce has a potent weapon in tailback Brian Copeland (5-9, 195, sr.). Last season, Copeland racked up 994 yards to lead the Western Athletic Conference in that department and was third in the league in receiving with 21 catches. He even threw for a 44-yard touchdown against Air Force in 1990. This season Copeland has started slowly, rushing for only 47 yards on 15 totes against Arkansas State and not scoring against Air Force.

Fullback John Ivlow (5-9, 225, jr.) transferred to Colorado State from Northwestern, where he was a two-year starter. In his debut for the Rams, Ivlow bulled his way for 82 yards on 17 carries. Backup Tom Romero (6-1, 210, so.) is a special teams wizard and will

Looking Back: Game No. 2 — A Five Year History

1990 — NU 60, No. Illinois 14 at Lincoln

The Huskers rolled up 549 total yards to dominate the visiting Huskies and raise their record to 2-0. Quarterback Mickey Joseph gained 75 yards on 11 carries and completed four of 11 passes for 103 yards in his first start at the Husker helm. He accounted for a 1-yard touchdown run and a 20-yard scoring toss to Chris Garrett. I-back Derek Brown had touchdown runs of 1 and 59 yards.

Linebacker Pat Tyrance had 12 stops and Reggie Cooper had seven.

1989 — NU 42, Utah 30 at Lincoln

In a showcase of two of the nation's most prolific offenses, Nebraska had just too much firepower for the visiting Utes. Gerry Gdowski had two touchdown runs of 8 yards and another one from 4 yards out. I-back Ken Clark had 130 yards on 22 carries while fullback Bryan Carpenter accounted for 102 yards on only five totes.

The biggest play of the game, however, came in the second quarter. With the Huskers holding a slim 14-13 lead, linebacker Mike Croel picked off an errant Scott Mitchell pass and returned it 6 yards for the score.

With momentum on its side, Nebraska was able to hold off the pesky visitors.

1988 — NU 63, Utah State 13 at Lincoln

The quarterbacks were the offensive stars on this bright day. Starter Steve Taylor picked up 74 yards and two scores on nine carries and added 143 yards and one touchdown through the air. Backups Gerry Gdowski and Mickey Joseph also added scoring runs. On the afternoon, NU rolled up 590 yards of total offense. The Black Shirts swarmed the Utags, allowing only two late touchdown tosses by Brent Snyder. The win pushed the Huskers to 2-0 on the year and set up a showdown on the West Coast with UCLA.

1987 — NU 42, UCLA 33 at Lincoln

UCLA, which had been worried about the running of Steve Taylor, was burned by the junior signal-caller for five touchdowns and 217 yards through the air as Nebraska buried the Pac-10 visitors. Taylor found tight end Todd Millikan from 33 and 35 yards out while hitting Rod Smith, Tom Banderas and Ken Clark for the other scores.

LeRoy Etienne led the defense with 13 stops while Tim Rother and Steve Forch each added nine sticks.

1986 — NU 59, Illinois 14 at Champaign, Illinois

I-back Keith Jones scampered for 168 yards on 16 carries and two touchdowns to lead the Huskers to a road victory over the Big Ten's Illini. Terry Rodgers added 65 yards. NU racked up 470 yards on the ground.

The Black Shirts held Illinois to just 3 yards on 29 rushes. Linebacker Kevin Parsons led the Nebraska charge with eight total tackles.

RAMS 2-DEEP

(returning starters in bold)

OFFENSE

SE	Greg Primus	5-11	172	jr.
	Matt Phillips	6-2	180	fr.
LT	Todd Bean	6-5	277	sr.
	Pat Meyer	6-3	275	fr.
LG	A. Whitmer	6-3	242	sr.
	Mark Donnelly	6-3	240	fr.
C	Mike Padilla	6-0	244	sr.
	Terry Engle	6-3	255	jr.
RG	Bob Cox	6-1	259	so.
	D. Hutchins	6-3	252	jr.
RT	Jason Basso	6-6	283	jr.
	Steve Ullrich	6-5	238	jr.
TE	Mark Smith	6-5	210	so.
	M. McKenzie	6-2	229	jr.
QB	K. Verdugo	6-3	210	jr.
	Jerry Dunn	6-0	193	jr.
FB	John Ivlow	5-9	225	jr.
	Tom Romero	6-1	210	so.
TB	B. Copeland	5-9	195	sr.
	Pat Ingrassia	6-0	180	fr.
FL	Mark Holmes	6-0	186	sr.
	Billy Gonzalez	5-10	187	jr.

DEFENSE

OLB	Kevin Lynch	6-3	232	jr.
	K. Ragsdale	6-2	215	fr.
LT	Steve Norton	6-2	226	so.
	Don Jones	6-4	235	fr.
NG	Mike Pagel	6-1	235	sr.
	Brandon Ward	6-3	250	fr.
RT	Paul Gasser	6-5	239	sr.
	John Polousky	6-3	240	fr.
OLB	B. Schneider	6-1	201	so.
	Matt Rood	6-4	213	so.
ILB	Otis Hamilton	6-0	221	jr.
	Chris Deuchar	6-1	225	jr.
ILB	Kareem Ingram	6-1	210	fr.
	Rick Ward	6-0	215	jr.
LCB	Sly Mabry	5-8	164	jr.
	Vincent Booker	5-9	170	fr.
FS	Harlan Carroll	5-11	180	jr.
	Val Lefrere	5-10	180	fr.
SS	Bob Stratman	6-0	189	sr.
	Chauncey Sims	5-9	185	sr.
RCB	Selwyn Jones	6-0	181	sr.
	Andre Strode	5-10	180	fr.

HUSKERS 2-DEEP

(returning starters in bold)

OFFENSE

SE	Jon Bostick	6-2	190	sr.
	Tyrone Hughes	5-10	175	jr.
LT	Erik Wiegert	6-5	300	sr.
	L. Lundberg	6-4	305	so.
LG	Dave Jensen	6-4	305	jr.
	Ken Mehlin	6-0	260	so.
C	B. Ziegelbein	6-4	275	sr.
	Jim Scott	6-2	260	so.
RG	Will Shields	6-1	295	jr.
	T.J. Slansky	6-5	275	jr.
RT	B. Boerboom	6-7	310	sr.
	Zach Wiegert	6-5	310	fr.
TE	W. Washington	6-2	260	jr.
	J. Mitchell	6-3	260	so.
QB	M. Joseph	5-10	180	sr.
	Tom Haase	6-0	190	sr.
FB	Omar Soto	5-10	220	sr.
	Lance Lewis	6-0	225	jr.
TB	Derek Brown	5-9	180	so.
	Calvin Jones	5-11	205	fr.
WB	Nate Turner	6-2	220	sr.
	V. Hawkins	5-11	210	jr.

DEFENSE

OLB	Travis Hill	6-2	235	jr.
	David Leader	6-2	205	jr.
LT	K. Ramaekers	6-4	290	so.
	Matt Hilman	6-3	275	jr.
NG	Pat Engelbert	6-2	265	sr.
	David Noonan	6-3	275	so.
RT	Brian Brown	6-6	280	sr.
	Jamie Liewer	6-4	270	jr.
OLB	David White	6-2	240	jr.
	Trev Alberts	6-4	235	so.
SLB	Mike Petko	6-3	230	sr.
	D. Williams	6-1	250	so.
WLB	M. Anderson	6-2	230	so.
	Paul Wightman	6-2	225	jr.
LCB	Curtis Cotton	6-1	210	sr.
	Kenny Wilhite	5-8	190	jr.
FS	Tyrone Byrd	6-0	175	jr.
	John Reece	6-0	205	so.
SS	Steve Carmer	6-2	210	jr.
	Ernie Beler	5-11	205	so.
RCB	T. Legette	5-10	180	sr.
	Vernon Powell	5-10	160	so.

see plenty of playing time in the back-field.

The Ram line is an experienced crew. Right tackle Jason Basso (6-6, 283, jr.), center Mike Padilla (6-0, 244, sr.) and left guard Adam Whitmer (6-3, 242, sr.) all started 13 games last year. With his starts against Arkansas State and Air Force this year, Whitmer became a four-year starter. This is Padilla's and Basso's second season as a starter. Left tackle Todd Bean (6-5, 277, sr.) is a two-year letterman and right guard Bob Cox lettered in his only season in Fort Collins.

Tight end Mark Smith (6-5, 210, so.) started three games last season and caught nine passes for 74 yards.

On defense, junior inside linebacker Otis Hamilton (6-0, 221) led the squad against Arkansas State with 11 stops. Last season, he had 133 total tackles (including those stops made on special teams). Fellow inside 'backer Kareem Ingram (6-1, 210, fr.) had 10 stops inside ASU in his first collegiate game.

Outside linebacker Kevin Lynch (6-3, 232, jr.) started all 13 games last season, racking up 47 total stops, good enough for seventh on the team. On the other side, Brian Schneider (6-1, 201, so.) began the season in fine fashion by totalling six tackles, a quarterback sack, causing a fumble and breaking up a pass against Arkansas State.

On the defensive line, noseguard Mike Pagel (6-1, 235, sr.) is a former walk-on who has earned a starting spot. He played in all 13 games last year and had two quarterback sacks. This year, he has played well against Arkansas State and Air Force. Sophomore left tackle Steve Norton (6-2, 226) played sparingly last year and made only two stops against ASU. Right tackle Paul Gasser has recovered from off-season shoulder surgery and accounted for three stops in the opener.

The secondary appears strong, led by cornerback Selwyn Jones (6-0, 181, sr.). Jones is Colorado State's career interception leader with 15 and was a second team All-WAC pick last year. Strong safety Robert Stratman (6-0, 189, sr.) played in 10 games last season and had five stops against ASU. Weak safety Harlan Carroll (5-11, 180, jr.) is a four-year starter and finished ninth in tackles last year with 56. He broke up a pass and had seven stops against ASU. Sylvester Mabry (5-8, 164, jr.) is at the other corner slot. ■

Key Matchups: NU versus Colorado State

Colorado State's light defensive line against Nebraska's mammoth offensive line—Across the front, Colorado State averages 235 pounds; Nebraska averages around 50 pounds heavier. Utah State had a light defensive line and the Huskers pummeled the Utags for 787 yards of total offense. If Nebraska can push the Rams around in the same manner as Utah State, another blowout will occur.

Colorado State's passing game against the Nebraska secondary—Utah State had success through the air and expect quarterback Kevin Verdugo to go up top on Satur-

day. Split end Greg Primus was the only Ram to start all 13 games last year and will see plenty of action on Saturday. After 1,008 yards receiving last year, Primus will be Verdugo's main target this season.

Earle Bruce's offensive schemes against the Huskers' defense—The veteran Bruce always has a knack of coming up with unusual plays and formations to try and throw off the opposition. Nebraska must be ready for every trick in the book on Saturday. Bruce and his staff would like nothing better than to grab the momentum with a trick play.

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x x
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FOOTBALL FORECAST

"Coach Osborne has indicated the guy is a good football coach. He'll be bringing in a team that can challenge Nebraska..."

Sept. 14, 1991
Lincoln, Neb
Huskers vs. Rams
Kickoff: 1:00 p.m.

Nick Hytrek, *DailyNebraskan*: "It's going to be interesting to see what the offense will look like. (Scott) Baldwin will probably miss the game and nobody knows who'll be starting at quarterback. Colorado State is coming off a disappointing loss to Air Force, so they'll have a little extra incentive. They're (CSU) definitely better than Utah State and could really give us a good game. We could be in trouble if our defense doesn't improve. The Rams won't be able to stop us though and the score will be like 42-24."

Tom Vint, *Associated Press*, Nebraska: "For a score, I'd have to say it will be in the 38-28 range with Nebraska's offense making the difference and the Husker defense being challenged by a Colorado State team that can throw the football."

"Being a former Iowa Stater, I gained admiration for Earle Bruce when he was able to beat Nebraska back-to-back in the early 1980s. In order to do that you must have some idea for what you're doing. Coach Osborne has indicated the guy is a good football coach. He'll be bringing in a team that can challenge Nebraska. But the key is that Nebraska has a game under its belt and that's going to be beneficial. The Huskers made some mistakes in the opening game and generally they play a better brand of football in the second game."

Casey Ehmsen, *Rocky Mountain Collegian*: "We're going to be tromped. Basically we have a really young front three and they've shown that in the last few games. With Nebraska's size and power up front, they're going to walk all over us. It's WAC versus the Big Eight and the WAC is on the lower echelon of the country. It's just not the same on a talent level. We're a good WAC team but I think the score will be

about 45-13."

John Mossman, *Associated Press*, Colorado: "Colorado State is a very sound football team. They like to run the ball and play tough defense, which is characteristic of an Earle Bruce team. Those kinds of teams tend to keep the



Mickey Joseph will once again be in a job fight.

score close even when they're out matched. I think that will be the case in Lincoln.

"I think it's going to be a case of whether the Rams can effectively run the ball against Nebraska's defense.

They have some shown some running ability. They can also throw it pretty well, but they prefer to run it.

"It will be interesting to see whether CSU can rebound from a disappointing last-second loss by Air Force. Look for a 34-20 score."

Bruce Viergutz, *Beatrice Sun*: "I think Nebraska has proved it has a quality offense and Colorado State lost quite a bit of its defense from last year. I think Nebraska will pretty much score at will. The problem is the Huskers showed against Utah State that they are untested against the pass. I think that will let Colorado State throw and score some points on them. Until Nebraska shows it can defend the pass people are going to be able to score on them."

Claudia Sangster, *York News-Times*: "There are still some questions at the quarterback position for Nebraska, but I think the running game showed what it could do on Saturday and that's a positive thing. I don't know exactly what happened in the Air Force game, but I'm sure the loss will pump up Colorado State. Earle Bruce has the ability to get his club back in the swing of things so I'm looking at a 31-14 score."

Mike Babcock, *Lincoln Journal-Star*: "The discussion of the quarterback situation will continue this week. The game will be closer than people think because of Bruce's former success against NU. I'll take Nebraska 35-10."

Our Pick: "The Nebraska defense was slated to be poor this year because of key losses, but the Black Shirts proved some of the critics wrong by basically shutting down the Utah State ground game. The question will have to be in the secondary. Look for Tyrone Legette and Curtis Cotton to take charge this week. The secondary will show up so look for a 42-14 score."

By The Game

	NU	USU
First downs	43	22
First downs rushing	32	4
First downs passing	10	16
First downs penalty	1	2
Rushing attempts	77	23
Yards gained rushing	630	56
Yards lost rushing	13	8
Net yards rushing	617	48
Net yards passing	170	373
Passes attempted	21	41
Passes completed	11	23
Passes intercepted	1	2
Total plays	98	64
Total net yards	787	421
Avg. gain per play	8.0	6.6
Fumbles-lost	2-2	0-0
Penalties-yards	8-51	6-50
Interceptions-yards	2-0	1-12
Punts-yards	0-0	7-292
Avg. per punt	0	41.7
Punt ret.-yards	4-111	0-0
Kickoff ret.-yards	4-115	7-173
Possession time	36:18	23:42
3rd down conv.	6-11	4-11
4th down conv.	2-2	0-0

Individual Statistics

Rushing

NU — D. Brown 23 carries for 175 yards, 0 TDs, 17-yard long gain; McCant 9 for 87, 1, 35; Soto 7 for 86, 0, 62; C. Jones 14 for 81, 2, 14; Baldwin 3 for 47, 1, 29; Achola 8 for 52, 0, 15; Joseph 7 for 28, 1, 10; Glantz 1 for 11, 0, 11; L. Lewis 1 for 15, 0, 15; Turner 1 for 11, 0, 11; Cornwell 1 for 9, 0, 9; Johnk 1 for 9, 0, 9; McDuffy 1 for 6, 0, 6.

USU — Grant 9 carries for 26 yards, 0 TDs, 12-yard long gain; Foreman 5 for 14, 0, 13; Hampton 4 for 7, 0, 4; Tigert 4 for 5, 1, 3; Lopez 1 for -2, 0, 0.

Receiving

NU — Mitchell 2 catches for 37 yards, 1 TD, 27-yard long gain; Hawkins 1 for 22, 1, 22; Bostick 2 for 20, 0, 12; Johnk 1 for 19, 0, 19; Muhammed 1 for 19, 0, 19; Turner 1 for 18, 0, 18; D. Brown 1 for 17, 0, 17; Achola 1 for 17, 0, 17; Wade 1 for 1, 1, 1.

USU — R. Moore 12 catches for 220 yards, 3 TDs, 51-yard long gain; Jenkins 4 for 54, 0, 30; Foreman 2 for 35, 0, 21; Watts 1 for 27, 0, 27; Grant 1 for 17, 0, 17; Hampton 2 for 11, 0, 9; Tigert 1 for 9, 0, 9.

Passing

NU — McCant 6 completions in 10 attempts, 1 interception, 1 touchdown, 101 yards, 27-yard long gain; Joseph 4

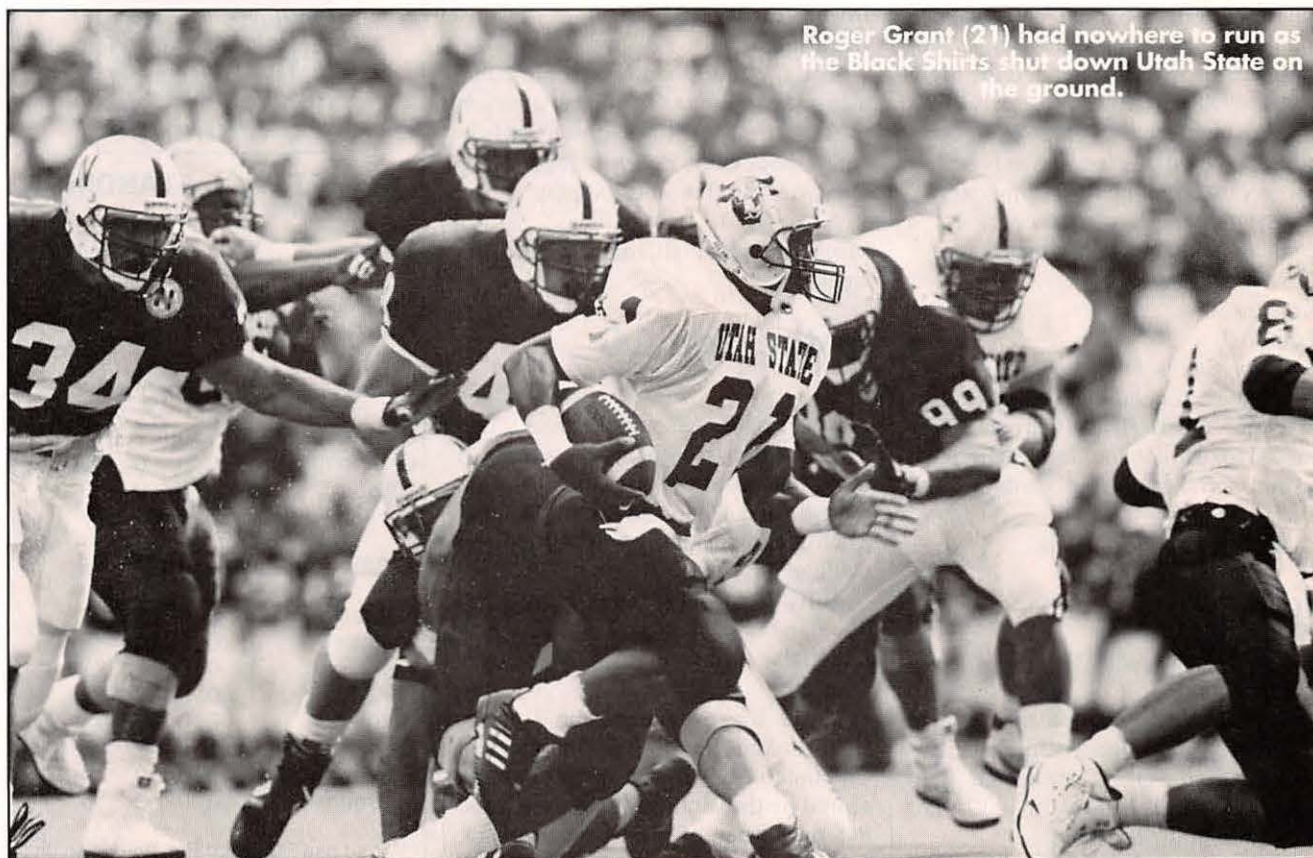
for 10, 0, 1, 68, 22; Gragnano 1 for 1, 0, 1, 1, 1.

USU — Lopez 23 completions in 41 attempts, 2 interceptions, 3 touchdowns, 373 yards, 51-yard long gain.

Defensive

NU — Hill 3 assisted, 3 unassisted for 6 total tackles; Petko 3 and 3 for 6; Cotton 2 and 3 for 5; Byrd 4 and 1 for 5; Liewer 2 and 1 for 3; Moore 1 and 2 for 3; Anderson 1 and 2 for 3; Engelbert 1 and 1 for 2; White 1 and 1 for 2; Gray 2 and 0 for 2; D. Jones 1 and 1 for 2; Hilman 0 and 1 for 1; Wiles 1 and 0 for 1; Branch 1 and 0 for 1; Carmer 0 and 1 for 1; Powell 1 and 0 for 1; Beler 0 and 1 for 1; Weyers 1 and 0 for 1; Powell 0 and 1 for 1.

USU — Edwards 8 unassisted and 1 assisted for 9 total tackles; D. Smith 5 and 3 for 8; Jackson 3 and 5 for 8; Lyles 5 and 3 for 8; Martinez 3 and 5 for 8; Byrd 6 and 1 for 7; Tyler 4 and 2 for 6; Robinson 3 and 3 for 6; Johnson 1 and 4 for 5; Davis 2 and 3 for 5; Van De Pol 3 and 1 for 4; Jacobs 3 and 1 for 4; Neeleman 2 and 2 for 4; Gustafson 2 and 2 for 4; Haugen 1 and 2 for 3; Batch 1 and 2 for 3; DeVries 0 and 3 for 3; Farias 0 and 2 for 2; Phillips 1 and 1 for 2; Brown 2 and 0 for 2; Goddard 1 and 0 for 1.



Roger Grant (21) had nowhere to run as the Black Shirts shut down Utah State on the ground.

Running back Derek Brown may not have any aspirations of being a postal carrier for a living, but much like the fabled men and women in blue, he delivered no matter what the weather conditions were. Brown rushed for a career high 175 yards topping the 120 mark he amassed against Minnesota last year. His performance also marked the third-best opening game performance by a Husker runner.

Quarterback Mickey Joseph may have seen limited playing time, but he still managed to rush for 28 yards to increase his career rushing total to 1,007

yards. He became the 37th Nebraska player and the fourth quarterback to top the 1,000-yard career mark.

Joseph wasn't the only Husker to make marks in a limited appearance during the game. Tight end Johnny Mitchell hauled in his sixth touchdown pass in eight games.

On the low side, Nebraska saw four players go down in the contest, but the prognosis is somewhat bright. I-back Scott Baldwin suffered a sprained ankle but should be ready for the Colorado State game. Fullback Lance Lewis went down with an ankle and knee strain, but

it is not supposed to be serious. Tight ends Chris Garrett and William Washington also went down. Garrett suffered a bruised shoulder while Washington went out in the second half with a bruised knee.

On The Cover: Derek Brown put on a show during the Huskers' season opener. All Utah State game photos by William Lauer.

AROUND THE BIG EIGHT

Oklahoma State 7 Tulsa 13

A sellout crowd of 39,479, the sixth-largest in Skelly Stadium history, was on hand to watch the Hurricane improve to 2-0 on the season as it dumped the Cowboys on a rainy night in Tulsa.

OSU could not get its offense, which centered around running back freshmen sensation Rafael Denson, on track and only escaped a shutout with a fourth quarter march engineered by backup quarterback Brent Scott. Denson capped the 62-yard, 11-play series with a two-yard scamper. Denson ended the night with only 88 yards on 21 carries. OSU's starting quarterback Kenny Ford completed seven of 11 for 77 yards before being yanked in the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys now prepare for a home match against Arizona State.

Kansas 30 Toledo 7

Tony Sands busted loose for 174 yards and a touchdown to key Kansas in Ohio. Quarterback Chip Hilleary passed for a touchdown and scored two on runs of six and four yards respectively.

Kansas next host Tulsa.

Colorado 30 Wyoming 13

The co-National Champions got a scare in Boulder, Colo. as the offense looked weak at best and managed to hold onto a slim lead before quarterback Darian Hagan connected with wingback Mark Henry for a 17-yard score late in the fourth.

Hagan went 12-for-23 for 151 yards

through the air and scored on a first-quarter run.

Kansas State 26 Indiana State 25

It took the interception of a two-point conversion try by ISU with 3:23 remaining in the game to put the Wildcats ahead for the win. William Price streaked the length of the field after the reception for a 103-yard safety.

Iowa State 42 E. Illinois 13

The Cyclones had no trouble pummeling E. Illinois as Sundiata Patterson racked up four touchdowns while quarterback Chris Pedersen jogged into the endzone after a busted play.

Missouri and Oklahoma were idle this week.

In the Top 10 . . .

Seven of the Associated Press's Top 10 saw action over the weekend and all came out on top. Top-ranked Florida State drilled Tulane 38-11 while No. 2 Michigan made short work of Boston College 35-13.

Billy Joe Hobert threw two touchdown passes as No. 4 Washington forced five turnovers in a 42-7 win over Stanford.

In the biggest rout in the Top 10, fifth-ranked Penn State hammered Cincinnati 81-0. It was the most points scored by the Lions in Head Coach Joe Paterno's term of office. Quarterback Tony Sacca threw for two touchdowns

while the Lions cast scored eight times on the ground by four different players.

No. 6 Florida had little trouble with San Jose State as they won 59-21.

Notre Dame had a little more trouble with upstart Indiana as the Irish outscored the Hoosiers 21-10 in the final half en route to a 49-27 win.

In the only other Top 10 game, Clemson blanked Appalachian State 34-0.



CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Nebraska	1	0	0	59	28
Kansas	1	0	0	30	7
Kansas St.	1	0	0	26	25
Iowa St.	1	0	0	42	13
Colorado	1	0	0	30	13
Oklahoma St.	0	1	0	7	13
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0	0	0

OVERALL

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Nebraska	1	0	0	59	28
Kansas	1	0	0	30	7
Kansas St.	1	0	0	26	25
Iowa St.	1	0	0	42	13
Colorado	1	0	0	30	13
Oklahoma St.	0	1	0	7	13
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0	0	0

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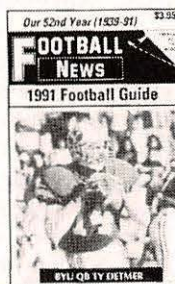
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Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado make up the core of Big Eight country. A look at the top prospects from these areas will give you the core of the recruiting classes for Big Eight Conference football in 1992.

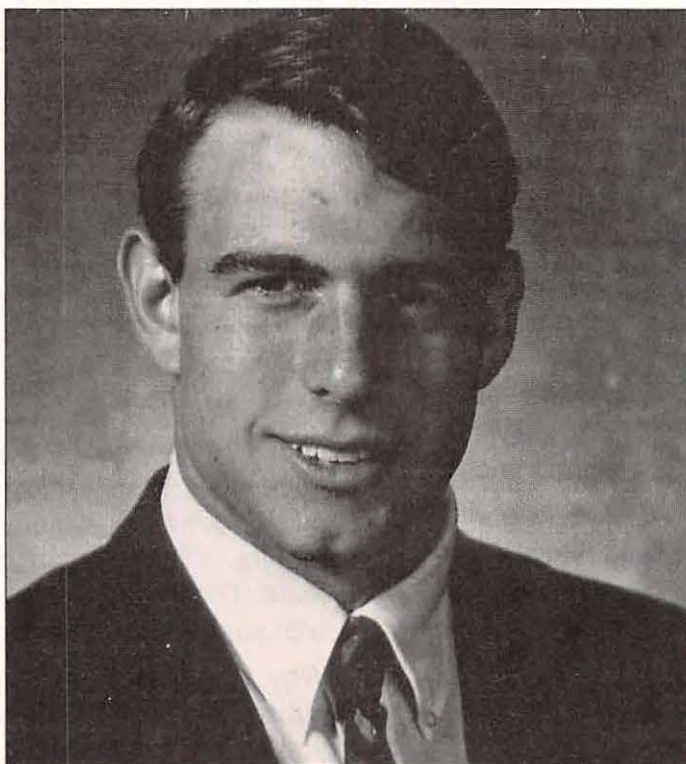
NEBRASKA

It's not surprising that the No. 2 prospect in the Cornhusker State this year is a defensive lineman. **LEONARD WASHINGTON** (6-4, 270, 4.9) of Omaha (North) is a great combination of speed and power that is a "can't miss" college prospect. Even playing with a bad knee a year ago, Washington managed 14 sacks and 11 stops per game. This preseason All-American is a must on the Husker recruiting list, but Washington admits he has an open mind about recruiting at the moment. "Sure I like Nebraska, but I want to keep my options open," says Washington. "I like Tennessee and Iowa too, and I'm still trying to decide where to take my visits."

On offense, there's not a better offensive line prospect than **JEFF OGARD** (6-

5, 265, 5.0) out of St. Paul. Good enough to manage 11 quarterback sacks and win a state wrestling crown at 30-1, Ogard looks to be the perfect athlete with his quick feet and agility. It will be a major upset if this preseason All-American doesn't sign with the Huskers and continue their tradition of great offensive linemen.

The third preseason All-American out of Nebraska is called the best athlete in this year's crop of athletes. Lincoln East star **ERIC STOKES** (5-10, 176, 4.5) is a great running back who can play man coverage in the secondary. Despite rushing for 1,231 yards and seven TDs, college recruiters think of Stokes as a cornerback. That's fine with Stokes who is just looking for an opportunity to play.



T.J. Scribner is headed for NU.

"I am just glad I'm going to be recruited," Stokes said. "I don't care where I play, I just want a chance."

Having already visited Iowa, the Hawkeyes have the early lead. However, the Huskers will be right there in the end, and Stokes says he has an interest in Texas A&M, Ohio St., Colorado and Penn State.

T.J. SCRIBNER (6-3, 210, 4.7) of Omaha (Brownell Talbert) and **JOHN HESSE** (6-4, 205, 4.8) of Lincoln (Southeast) are so similar it's scary. Both are being recruited as linebackers and represent the best in the state at that position. Hesse doubles as a fullback and excels academically (scoring a 30 on his ACT). Hesse loves the Huskers and despite looking out West to Stanford,

Washington and Southern Cal, look for this talent to play for Tom Osborne. Scribner dominates on a small-school level in Nebraska. He showed speed winning the 110 low hurdles and 300 intermediate. Scribner who has excellent hands and possesses outstanding blocking ability, doubles as a tight end. T.J. has already committed to the Huskers and passed his test to boot. Another tight end/outside linebacker to watch is **RYAN TERWILLIGER** (6-5, 210, 4.7) of Grant.

The best pure running back in Nebraska is **CLINTON CHILDS** (6-0, 195, 4.5) of Omaha (North). A tremendously strong runner with a quick burst, Childs led the state in rushing a year ago with 1,435 yards. Childs admits that he is keeping his options open when it comes to recruiting.

"I want to look around," Childs says. "I like Nebraska but I am not ready to commit to them. It's an important decision and I want to study all my

options. I am also looking at Colorado, FSU, OSU and Iowa State."

The best football player that will never play for Osborne is wide receiver **ERIC STRICKLAND** (6-3, 193, 4.5) of Bellevue (West). Strickland caught 44 passes a year ago, with 10 of those resulting in touchdowns. However, Eric also averaged 26 points per game on the hardwoods and has decided he would rather play basketball for Nebraska.

COLORADO

The Rocky Mountain State sports a super blue chipper at quarterback and several rock solid down linemen.

You can put up a pretty good argument that **PAUL SHOEMAKER** (6-1, 195, 4.65) of Longmont is the top QB in the country. Shoemaker looks like the perfect quarterback on the field. He has great poise, leadership ability and enough talent to throw for 1,940 yards and 26 TDs as a sophomore, and 2,035 yards and 23 TDs as a junior. This Player of the Year as a junior will put some college on hold for a couple of years as his Mormon faith will take him on a mission for two years. Shoemaker plans to enroll, redshirt his freshman year, serve the mission and then return with four years of eligibility left. All programs interested in Shoemaker understand his desires and despite the clear cut ability to throw the ball, he's looking for a balanced offense.

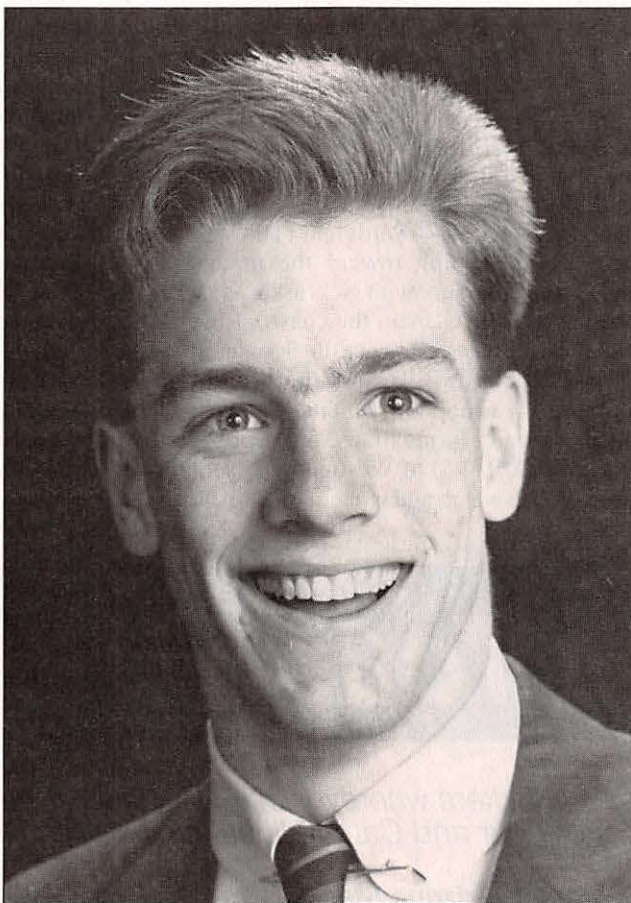
"I just don't want to throw the ball on every down," said Shoemaker. "I think you have to be balanced to be successful. I want to go somewhere that can run as well as pass."

You would think Brigham Young University would be perfect for Shoemaker, but he'll look at CSU, OU, Stanford, Arizona and Utah because of their offensive styles.

CHUCK MASTERS (6-4, 260, 5.1) of Denver (Mullen) heads a talented group of down linemen prospects in Colorado. Chuck has outstanding bloodlines as father Billy was an All-American at LSU. LSU is recruiting Masters as an offensive guard, while USC wants him as a nose guard.

Stanford, UCLA, Washington and Penn State just want him period.

JEREMY PENNINGTON (6-3, 270, 5.2) of Vernon (Lamar) is a tremendous run blocker who has already qualified academically. Interested in pre-dentistry, Pennington will look at Auburn, N.D., Florida, Tennessee and Alabama. **AARON WADE** (6-7, 275, 5.1) of Denver (Wheatridge) is an OT prospect



**Matt Wells, QB,
Sallisaw, Okla.**

who is trying to catch up academically after being held out of the ninth grade. This will be tough but if Wade makes it, look for Colorado to hold off OU, Miami, Nebraska and Washington. **HEATH IRWIN** (6-4, 250, 5.0) out of Boulder is the fourth preseason All-American OL from Colorado. His uncle is former U.S. Open Golf Champ Hale Irwin who happened to be a pretty good football player at CU in his day. Irwin, who can bench 350 pounds, has too many ties to turn down the Buffs. **DAVID QUIST** (6-5, 235, 4.86) of Boulder may be the best pure DL in the state. Colo-

rado will battle N.D. and Michigan for his services.

If you are looking for someone to round out your offensive line, try **JUSTIN SHULL** (6-3, 235, 4.7) of Colorado Springs (Coronado) at tight end. Because of Shull's great athletic ability he might wind up at LB, but don't count on it. Michigan loves him as a tight end, while BYU, Southern Cal, OU and N.D. will take him any way they can get him.

Others to watch in Colorado this season include: **JIMMY SITTER** (6-4, 232, 4.8) of Denver (Mullen). Sitter at TE/OLB, will visit Colorado, OU, Nebraska, LSU and Michigan. **TOMMY WATSON** (6-0, 200, 4.5) of Denver (Mullen) is a powerful running back who has drawn attention from OU, Nebraska, Colorado and ASU. **THAD SWAZER** (6-3, 220, 4.6) of Denver (Montbello) is the best backer in the state and is looking towards the Buffs with Nebraska, OU, Colorado State and N.D. also in the picture.

OKLAHOMA

Remember the attention Cale Gundy received during his senior year at Midwest City? There wasn't a school in the country that didn't at least give Gundy a call. **BEN RUTZ** (6-foot-6, 180 lbs., 4.7 time in the 40-yard dash) of Putnam City West will receive the same type of attention. Labeled a Top 10 quarterback nationally, Rutz is considered a Gundy clone coming out of the prep ranks. Rutz followed a 1,300-yard sophomore year by throwing for 1,850 yards as a junior, completing 57 percent of his tosses with 15 finding the end zone. Rutz starred at both the Nebraska and Oklahoma camps by showing a great touch on the ball and possessing enough arm strength to throw downfield 60 yards. More of a leader with his actions than his voice, Rutz will think long and hard about his recruiting choice.

"I am going to consider a number of things," Rutz said. "I'll look at the offense and how the passing game fits into that offense. I want a chance to show what I can do in the passing game. I don't want to be bogged down

in a running offense. It goes without saying that academics are important, but I want a school with a winning tradition and one where I can play early."

OU, OSU, Neb., Illinois, Louisiana State and Colorado are in the picture.

MATT WELLS (6-2, 180, 4.6) of Sallisaw is another QB with impressive numbers. Wells has already thrown for 2,951 yards and rushed for 509 while scoring 30 TDs. Texas is impressed with what they see in this talented signal caller and figure to be in the thick of the battle with OU, OSU, Arkansas, Baylor and Missouri.

Two of the top athletes in the state will line up at QB this fall, but will be recruited more for their athletic ability than for their passing skills. Del City's **ADRIAN PAULDEN** (6-3, 180, 4.5) threw for 1,228 yards and 12 touchdowns a year ago while rushing for 306 yards. He handles all kicking duties for the Eagles and his best position may be safety. Paulden is looking at OU, Colorado, NU and Michigan.

Ada's **LARRY BUSH** (6-0, 190, 4.5) is a speedster with a time of

10.5 in 100 meters. He excels as a option QB as well as a defensive back. Bush admits most colleges are recruiting him as a DB, which is just fine with him. Bush is a big Sooner fan but will look at Notre Dame, Nebraska and the University of Southern California as well.

The Sooner State sports a couple of running backs that will draw national attention. **LERON ROGERS** (5-9, 175, 4.4) of Tulsa (Washington) and **WOODY HANKINS** (5-9, 180, 4.57) of Owasso will compete for the honor of best running back this season. Rogers managed 1,078 yards and 13 TDs a year ago, while Hankins followed a sophomore year where he rushed for 906 yards with 1,344 yards and 11 TDs. Hankins is leaning toward the mountains of Colorado, with Nebraska, Washington and UCLA in the chase. Rogers said he's been a fan of the Sooners since the days of Billy Sims, but won't rule out Washington, Miami, Colorado, USC and Florida State. **JEFF FRAZIER** (6-2, 210, 4.5) of Westmoore is another RB to watch and is academically qualified.

Frazier is drawing a look from Army, Oklahoma, OSU, USC, UCLA, Kansas and Arkansas.

KRAIG ARTHUR (6-4, 250, 4.85) of Sapulpa is the best down lineman in the state. Strength is Mr. Arthur's forte with a bench of 425 pounds and a squat of 500 pounds. Nebraska, Southern Cal, Michigan and Arizona State will be in the hunt with OU for this talented lineman. **JOE STREICH** (6-3, 240, 5.1) of Putnam North is a prototype offensive lineman with a vertical jump of 31 inches and a squat of 500 pounds. It should come down to a battle between OU and OSU for Streich but if they falter, Baylor and KU will be there to pick up the chase. **TONY HUTTON** (6-3, 260, 5.3) of Tulsa (Cascia Hall) is looking at KU, OU and Colorado State. **PAUL MILLER** (6-1, 250, 4.8) of Edmond won the state wrestling title as a junior and would like to do both in college. That bodes well for Arizona State since Miller wants to leave the state. Despite the fact Colorado doesn't have a wrestling program, the Buffs are in the picture. **TOM PROCTOR** (6-3, 225, 5.0) of

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Broken Arrow is the last of a talented group of linemen. Proctor was invited to the spring games of N.D. and Vanderbilt. OSU, KU, Northwestern and Miami are also in the picture. **KENNETH BURKS** (6-1, 320, 4.9) is a tremendous talent who, due to grades, will head to junior college.

BRANDY CROW (6-2, 220, 4.69) of Jenks is far and away the best linebacker in state. Called a "wild man" by Jenks Coach Ron Lancaster, Crow is a solid hitter who specializes in rushing the passer, showcased by 22 sacks as a junior. The test score is out of the way and Crow admits he loves OU. However, he will keep his options open and look into Michigan, Illinois, CSU and UCLA. **MIKE ODOM** (6-1, 230, 4.9) of Poteau is another linebacker who will draw some national attention.

This would be a great year for receivers if it weren't for grades. **MIKE McDANIELS** (6-3, 205, 4.4) of Oklahoma City (John Marshall) has a chance but still needs to pass the test. If McDaniels can make up three points on the ACT, some school will have one of the top athletic talents in the country. **OSCAR CUMMINGS** (5-11, 185, 4.4) of Altus, and **P.J. MILLS** (6-0, 175, 4.5) all are talented enough to be ranked nationally, but poor grades will send them to junior college where they should be heavily recruited in two years. **JOEL NICHOLSON** (6-2, 195, 4.5) of Oklahoma City (McGuinness) has qualified and, after 22 catches for 495 yards, is being recruited by Southern Cal, OU, N.D. and Air Force.

MISSOURI

If you need a couple of receivers, Missouri is a good place to start. **JASON GIEBLER** (6-4, 225, 4.57) of Joplin is an All-American tight end who caught 39 passes for 638 yards a year ago. Giebler has great hands and enough speed to escape. He's also intelligent — scoring a 26 on his ACT while carrying a 3.76 GPA. Jason admits that at the moment he's trying to choose between OU and USC, but don't count out Illinois.

LOU SHEPPARD (6-1, 175, 4.5) of Blue Springs is the wide receiver who will be drawing attention from across the country. Possessing great numbers for a receiver, Sheppard grabbed 88 tosses for 1,223 yards while averaging 29.7 yards per punt return. Grades may be a problem and despite having a sister at OU, Lou likes Illinois in the early go-

ing.

Other preseason All-Americans to watch include LB **BILLY WAGASY** (6-2, 235, 4.8) of Springfield (Glendale). After making over 140 tackles his junior year, Wagasy participated in camps at Notre Dame, Southern Cal, NU, OU, Illinois and Colorado. **DEREK DON DE'VILLE** (6-4, 260, 5.2) out of St. Louis (Vianney) is a great DL prospect who made 65 solo tackles a year ago. De'Ville uses his feet and hands very well and Missouri is the solid leader at this point. One of the best athletes in Missouri is LB **ED MORROW** (6-4, 220, 4.6) of St. Louis (McClure). Not only did Morrow manage 95 tackles but he returned four interceptions for 150 yards. Morrow hasn't set any visits but he's looking at Michigan, Colorado and USC. Add **DEMONTIE CROSS** (6-3, 195, 4.6), a DB from St. Louis (Hazelwood) that comes from a great program and has already qualified. Illinois and Notre Dame are in pursuit.

KANSAS

JIM MOORE (6-3, 225, 4.7) of Garden City just might be the best tight end in the country. Playing on both sides of

the ball, Moore managed 20 catches for a little over 400 yards while providing a great pass rush on defense with eight pass deflections and seven sacks. He's a 4.0 student with a 29 ACT and pro baseball could be in the picture. Moore isn't sure about his college visits yet, but over 100 schools have been in contact.

Talk about an athlete, DE/TE **CURTIS TURNER** (6-5, 210, 4.7) of Scott City is fluid, smooth and tough. Gifted enough to run on the 4 x 100 relay team that won a state title and also averaged 25 points per game on the hardwoods. Kansas, OU and Colorado want him as a DE while Nebraska wants to beef him up and have an explosion at DT.

LB **GENE LUNDY** (6-3, 225, 4.65) is another one to keep an eye on this season. A great athlete that has drawn some attention from USC and Colorado. The best RB in Kansas, **ANDY BALL** (6-2, 180, 4.6) of Riverton can't qualify; however **MIKE COSEY** (5-10, 172, 4.5) of Lawrence is close on grades. Cosey rushed for 1,402 yards and 26 TDs as a junior. KU leads the recruiting pack with OSU, Nebraska, Missouri and Arkansas still in the hunt. ■



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Air Nebraska

Much has been made of the discussion during this off-season concerning how Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne will have to take to the air this season. While Osborne is famous for his ability to produce some of the top rushing units in history, it is one of his passers who ranks in an elite NFL category. Vince Ferragamo (1975-76) is one of only six quarterbacks in NFL history to throw for over 500 yards in an NFL game. Norm Van Brocklin holds the record with a 554-yard effort against the New York Yankees in 1951. Warren Moon is second (527 vs. Kansas City last year), followed by Dan Marino (521 vs. New York Jets, 1988), Phil Sims (513 vs. Cincinnati, 1985), Ferragamo (509 vs. Chicago, 1982) and Y.A. Tittle (505 vs. Washington, 1962).



Record-setting Ferragamo.

Husker destined for feature stories

Pencil in Denver defensive tackle Kenny Walker as the player most likely to appear in numerous feature stories this season. While fans in the Big Eight region are well acquainted with Walker's inspirational story of overcoming his deafness to become an All-American at Nebraska, the rest of the country will now get its chance.

Walker was drafted by the Broncos in the eighth round, an impressive accomplishment in itself, since most NFL clubs are not known for going out on a limb when it comes to drafting players. He was given at best an outside chance to make the Denver defense mostly based on his ability to rush the passer. But just as he has done since he first arrived on campus in Lincoln, Walker

continues to make people notice and re-evaluate him.

Ernie Stautner, who headed the vaunted Dallas Cowboy "Doomsday Defense" for many years and is a veteran of nearly 40 years of professional football, is the Bronco defensive line coach and the man that Walker had to impress.

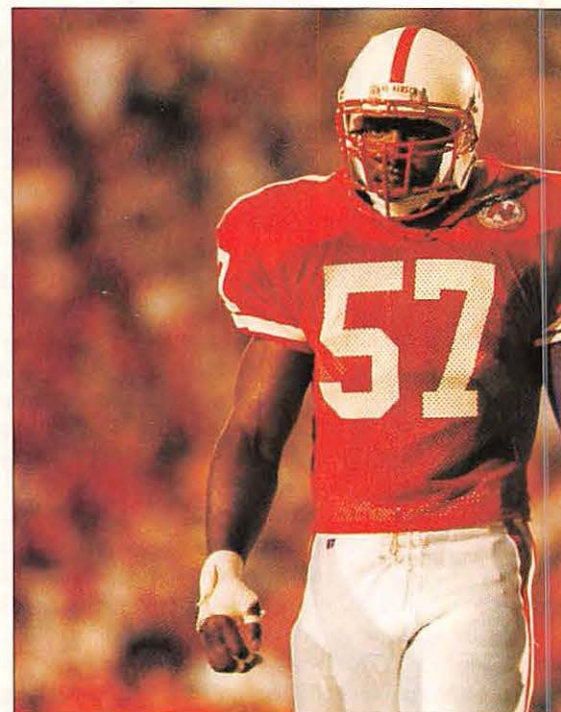
"I'm really pleased with him," Stautner said. "I was very apprehensive when we first drafted him because I thought that communication would cause some insurmountable problems. But it's getting better and better. My original plan was to use him as a spot player. Now I foresee he could start."

Over the past decade, the Bronco defense has been known more for their quickness and pursuit than their bulk inside. Players such as Karl Mecklenburg have prospered and become All-Pros in that system. Although Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips changed some of that system in the past two years, it appears as though the tradition of the Orange Crush and its vicious pursuit will remain intact.

Lion's wealth shared

After holding out for a more lucrative contract for most of the preseason, Detroit's Barry Sanders will have plenty of expectations to live up to this season.

First, the Lions have abandoned the

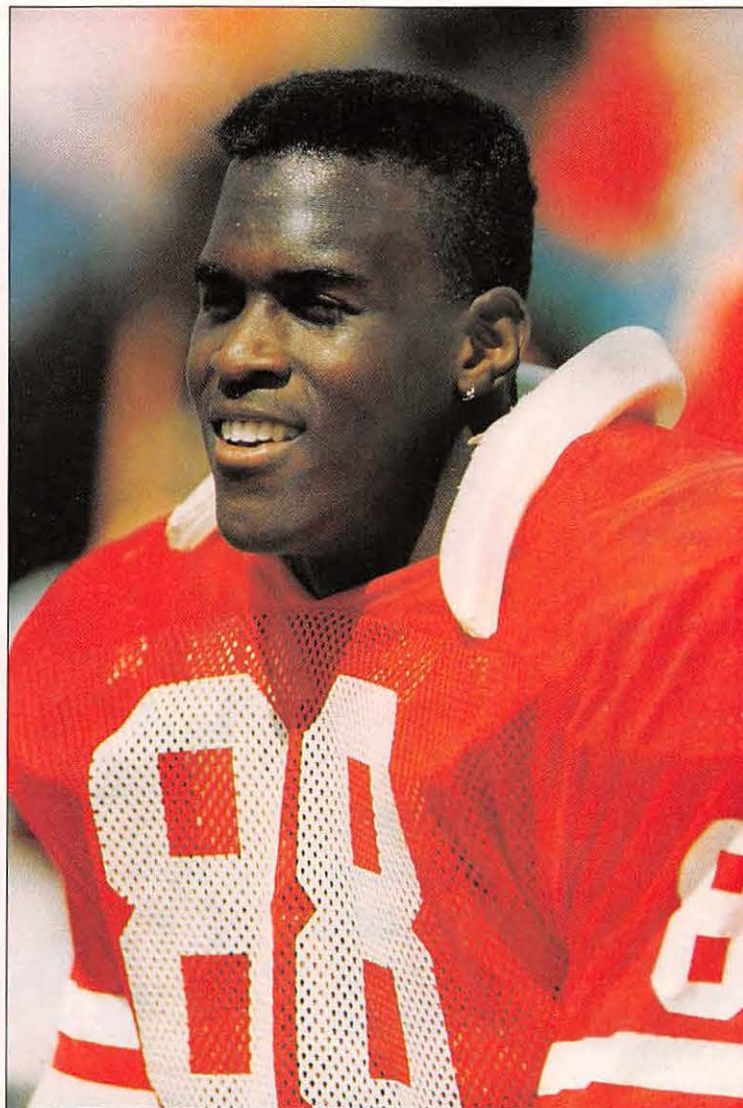


pure version of the Run-and-Shoot attack they featured during each of Sanders' first two seasons in the NFL. After not carrying any tight ends on their roster in either 1989 or 1990, the Lions went into the first week of the season with two — second-year man Eugene Riley and rookie Reggie Barrett. Make no mistake about it, neither is there to



Sanders keeps the guys up front happy with incentives.

Beating the odds is becoming common for this former Husker, Kenny Walker.



Croel was a cinch pick for the Broncos.

lead the league in receiving. They are there to clear the way for Mr. Sanders.

Second, Sanders must overcome the stigma of being a holdout athlete in an economically depressed area. Many professional athletes have shot their popularity in the foot by using such tactics, but Sanders' quiet demeanor and all-out work ethic should defuse any such situation.

As just one example of Sanders' largesse, he insisted that part of the incentives in his contract be a \$10,000 per-player bonus to his offensive linemen should he reach 1,000 yards. To gauge how much Sanders means to his linemen, listen to tackle Lomas Brown, "The offensive line's goal is to get him 2,000."

Sanders himself is not interested in setting a particular goal, but also isn't intimidated by the number 2,000. "I think it's realistic for anybody because it has been done before."

Indeed, both O.J. Simpson (2,003 in 1973) and Eric Dickerson (2,105 in 1984) have reached that once unthinkable total. But both also did it in a system that featured them heavily. Should Sanders near that lofty total in an offense that still values a pass as much as a run, the Lions will have made a very wise investment.

Make-up Exam

When Alfred Williams finally arrived at Cincinnati's training camp, he walked into his first meeting with Ben-

gal Linebacker Coach Dick Selcer and found "396" written on the blackboard. Selcer explained that was the total number of hours Williams owed him after his 31-day holdout. "It's not punishment," Selcer said, "I just want him to understand the reality of the situation."

Big Eight cleans up

As the NFL teams prepared their final rosters for the opening of the season, each Big Eight school was represented by at least one player. Nebraska had the most players on first week rosters (18) followed by Oklahoma (12),



Big Eight players on NFL rosters

(At beginning of first week)



A TRADITION SINCE 1981

NEBRASKA HUSKERS



Nebraska 13, Baylor 0 — Sept. 1



Nebraska 69, Missouri 21 — Oct. 13



Nebraska 31, Oklahoma State 3 — Oct. 20



Nebraska 60, No. Illinois 14 — Sept. 8

N



Nebraska 45, Iowa State 13 — Oct. 27



Nebraska 56, Minnesota 0 — Sept. 22

1990

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NATIONALLY**



Colorado 27, Nebraska 12 — Nov. 3



Nebraska 31, Oregon State 7 — Sept. 29



Nebraska 41, Kansas 9 — Nov. 10



Nebraska 45, Kansas State 8 — Oct. 6



Georgia Tech 45, Nebraska 21 — Jan. 1, 1991



Oklahoma 45, Nebraska 10 — Nov. 23

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Blaise Bryant (above) was able to secure a spot on the Jets' practice squad, and Adrian Cooper (right) landed a job in the Pittsburgh camp.

Colorado (11), Oklahoma State and Missouri (7 each), Kansas (5), Iowa State (4) and Kansas State (1). Every team in the league had at least one Big Eight player on its squad. Atlanta led the way with five players, followed by San Francisco, Denver and the Raiders with four each.

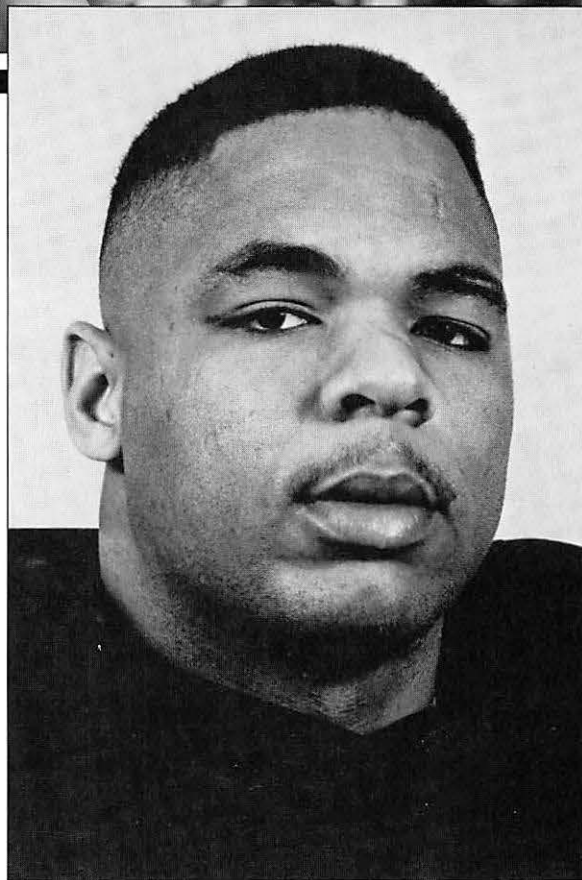
Surviving the Cut

Veteran wideout **Leo Lewis** was at first cut, but then resigned by the Vikings. **Dexter Manley** was waived by Phoenix, but was quickly snatched up by Tampa Bay. Safety **Harry Colon** not only earned a spot with the Patriots, he moved into a starting role. He joins fellow eighth-round pick (from 1983) **Ronnie Lippett** in the New England secondary. In addition to Walker, the Bronco defense will also sport a pair of Husker linebackers. **Jeff Mills** earned a spot on the roster by finishing third on the team in tackles during the preseason. First-round pick **Mike Croel** was a cinch. **Mike Pritchard**, one of the Falcons' two first round picks, led the club with seven receptions including three for touchdowns. K-State alum **Gerald Alphin** fought off challengers for his job by averaging 19.3 yards per catch to make the Saints. Running back **Ken Clark** survived a late-camp fumble that cost the Colts a game when Albert Bentley was injured. Clark's average of nearly seven yards per carry didn't hurt either. Tight end **Adrian**

Cooper led the Steelers with a pair of touchdown catches and his solid blocking earned him the third spot on the roster. **Marcus Robertson** of Iowa State was one of four rookie defensive backs to earn a spot for the Oilers. Fellow Cyclone rookie **Gene Williams** became only the third rookie draft choice to start the season opener. The others were Richmond Webb and Keith Sims (another Cyclone) last year. He was also the lowest draft pick (fifth round) to start as a rookie since Mike Pozlowski (10th round) started at safety in 1979.

Getting Axed

The cut to 47 players saw many Big Eight names end up on the out-of-work list. **Tom Backes** (OU) and **Mickey Pruitt** (Colorado) were cut by Chicago. **Derrick Sheppard** (OU) was dismissed by Dallas. Veteran running back **James Wilder** (Missouri) was let go by Detroit, while **Joe Garten** (Colorado) was placed on injured re-



serve by the Packers. Sooner **Scott Evans** was cut by the Cardinals as **LeRoy Etienne** was waived by the 49ers. **Carl Bax** was axed by the Buccaneers, and teammate **Jim Skow** was a last minute cut also.

Still practicing

Iowa State running back **Blaise Bryant** and three other Big Eight alums were signed to practice squads after clearing waivers. The others were **Cesar Rentie**, **James Goode** and **Tauhan Lewis** by the Raiders. ■



Future looks bright . . .

With one commitment from a Top 70 player and two others strongly leaning toward Nebraska.

Nebraska's recruiting efforts for 1992 were praised in the Aug. 19 issue of *Future Stars*, a recruiting newsletter.

"So far, Nebraska has jumped out to a fast start in recruiting, receiving commitments from two of our Top 70 (Seniors in the Class of 1992)."

The two, of course, are Andre Woolridge, a guard from Omaha Benson High, who has announced that he will accept a scholarship from the Cornhuskers, and Erick Strickland, a guard from Bellevue West High, who has indicated he is leaning toward Nebraska.

Strickland, who is skipping the football season to concentrate on basketball, has yet to make an oral commitment to the Cornhuskers.

The newsletter says the Cornhuskers also are "close" to receiving a commitment from a third member of its Top 70, Jaron Boone, a "high-flying," 6-foot-5 quick forward from Skyline High in Salt Lake City.

As a result, the newsletter says, "The Cornhuskers have a big jump on the rest of the pack."

Future Stars provides this recap of Woolridge's performance at the Las Vegas Prep Invitational. Woolridge made the all-tournament team and "put on one of the great shows of the summer versus San Mateo. Has all the tools

and is unstoppable one on one. Surprised us all with his early commitment to Nebraska."

Woolridge scored 33 points against San Mateo and "reminded us of a young Ronnie Lester with his absolutely dominating ability to score one on one even when double or triple teamed."

In late August, Nebraska added yet another recruit for the 1992-93 season in 6-8 forward Tom Best, who announced he was transferring from Toledo University. Best will have two seasons of eligibility after sitting out a year, under NCAA transfer rules.

Best averaged 13.4 points and led the Mid-American Conference with an 8.9 rebounds-per-game average.

Toledo finished with a 17-16 record and was runnerup in the MAC postseason tournament.

Best's decision to transfer came in the wake of the firing at the end of last season of Jay Eck as Toledo's head coach. "That had about the most to do with it," Best told the *Lincoln Journal-Star* newspapers. "When the coaching staff here changed, I talked to my dad about transferring. He said, 'Why don't you call a bunch of schools in the Midwest?'"

Best said Michigan State, Illinois, Iowa, DePaul and Iowa State were among the schools to which he wrote.

After obtaining his release from Toledo, Best said, representatives of the schools in which he was interested contacted him. Missouri also showed an interest and made contact.

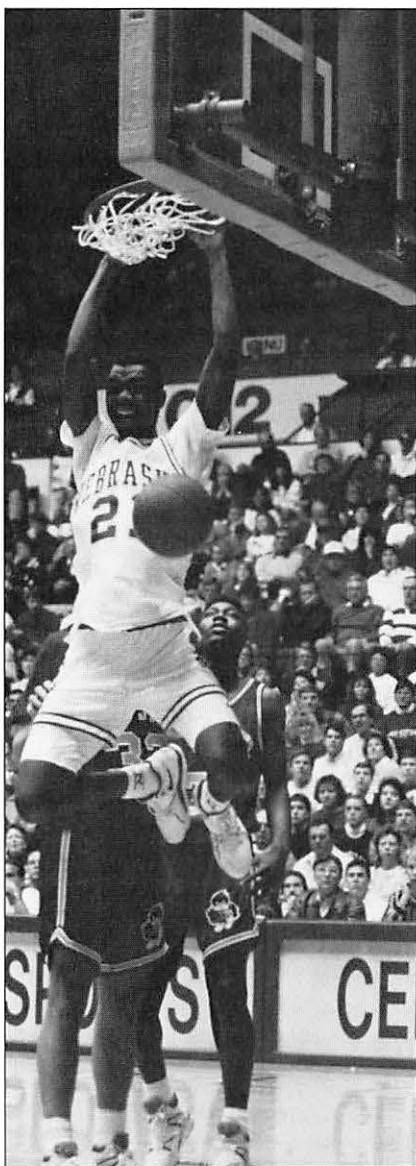
"DePaul was really interested. I could've went there, and they have the tradition of basketball," said Best. "But it's in the city (of Chicago), and I kind of wanted to get away from that."

Best is from South Holland, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

His interest in Nebraska was based, in part, on having played against the Cornhuskers in a 105-68 loss at the Devaney Sports Center last Dec. 8. He scored 11 points and grabbed four rebounds in the game.

"I really had no idea I'd end up in Nebraska. When we played there last year, we went to the Cornhusker Hotel and to the Devaney Center, and I didn't see any part of the town. The one thing I remember is that even though there weren't any students around, there were still a lot of people at the game — for playing Toledo," Best said.

Best had reservations about Nebraska's internal investigation into the eligibility of former Cornhuskers Tony Farmer and Jose Ramos. However, Best said, his concerns were alleviated when he and his father met with Coach Danny Nee and his staff.



Hayes missed the trip to Italy due to a family matter, according to Nee.

Around the horn . . .

Patrick Hawthorne, a 6-7 forward from Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College and member of Nebraska's 1991 recruiting class, did not complete the requirements for his associate of arts degree and has not enrolled at Nebraska for the fall semester. Hawthorne apparently came up six hours short of the degree, which he must have before he's eligible.

"We could use him up-front, but I still feel comfortable with the players we have now. I've known for over a month that he was on the border," Nee said in making the announcement in August.

"But you can't be concerned about

what you can't control."

The loss of Hawthorne leaves the Cornhuskers with just 10 players on scholarship for the 1991-92 season. However, if Hawthorne were to pass the necessary hours during the fall semester in junior college, he could enroll at Nebraska second semester and be eligible immediately. In all likelihood, he would be redshirted second semester and have two seasons of eligibility left beginning in 1992-93.

Hawthorne averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds per game and helped lead his Mississippi Gulf Coast team to a fourth-place finish in the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

Cornhusker Assistant Coach Gary Barga said of Hawthorne: "He didn't have a very good second semester (in the classroom), with all the traveling and going to the national tournament. He's disappointed, but he still wants to come to Nebraska."

Senior forward Carl Hayes was one of two Cornhuskers chosen for the Big Eight Conference Select Team, which played an exhibition series in Italy in August. However, Hayes did not make the European trip because of a family matter, according to Nee.

Sophomore Bruce Chubick, however, did make the trip. Chubick's best performance came in the first game of six, when he scored 12 points and pulled

down 12 rebounds in a 113-91 victory against a team from Turkey.

The Big Eight Select Team finished the trip with a 4-2 record against rugged competition, which included former NBA player Rick Mahorn.

Former Cornhusker Tony Farmer is scheduled to report to the Los Angeles Lakers' training camp in Palm Springs, Calif., on Oct. 1. Farmer announced in August that he had agreed to a one-year contract with the Lakers. Farmer was a free agent after failing to be picked in the National Basketball Association draft.

"I'm happy with the terms and the amount of the contract," said Farmer, who declined to specify the contract's provisions.

"It's only partially guaranteed," he said. "So I have a lot of motivation to make it through camp."

Farmer said he attracted attention early in the summer while playing at a Lakers' rookie camp. "I played well in the rookie camp, and afterward, they told me I have a real good shot at making the team. They have some players who are getting up in age, and they're trying to bring in some young players. Both Jerry West and Mike Dunleavy told me I have a good shot at making it," Farmer said.

West is the Lakers' general manager. Dunleavy is head coach.

The 6-9 Farmer, a native of Los



Following much controversy, it appears that Ramos has played his last game as a Husker.

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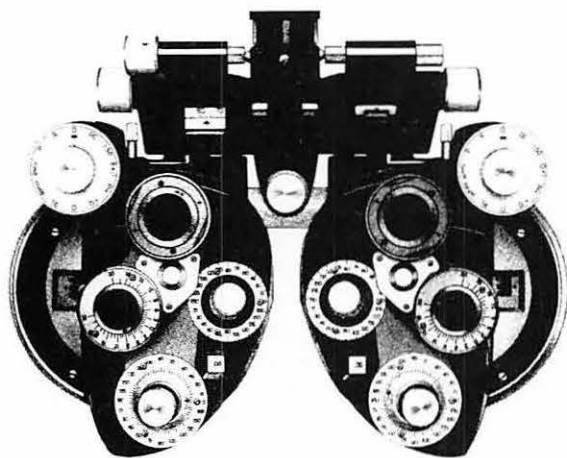
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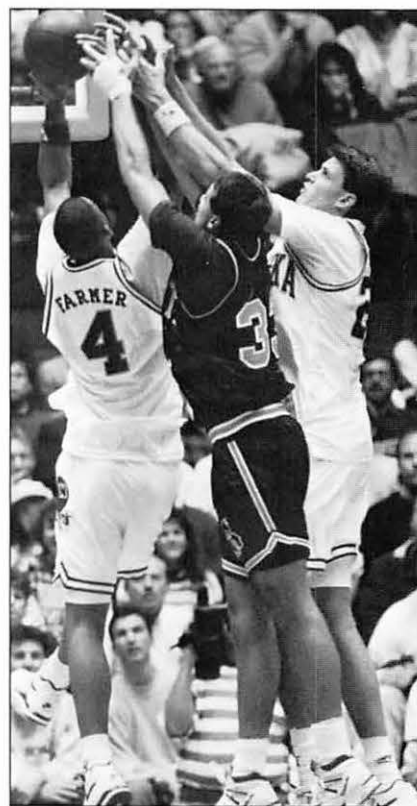
HOOPS

Angeles, averaged 12.4 points and 7.4 rebounds per game for Nebraska last season as a junior. He would have been one of the top players returning in the Big Eight, but decided to skip his senior season of collegiate eligibility and submit his name for the NBA draft.

There was uncertainty regarding his eligibility status, following the disclosure that he had violated the NCAA's extra-benefits rule in accepting a low-interest automobile loan.

Former Cornhusker Jose Ramos, who also was declared ineligible for accepting extra benefits, withdrew his request for a due process hearing following an investigation by the university. The hearing had been scheduled for late August, but Al Papik, Nebraska's assistant athletic director for compliance and administrative services, announced the day before the hearing was to be held that it had been cancelled at Ramos' request.

The hearing date had previously been postponed. With the cancellation, it appeared the issue of Ramos' eligibility at Nebraska for the upcoming season was resolved. ■



**Rebounding helped Farner (4)
earn a contract with the Lakers.**

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**THE FELLOWSHIP
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Last season in the Florida Citrus Bowl, the Huskers wore all white (helmets, pants and jerseys). A couple of years ago when Nebraska was playing Oklahoma, the Huskers came out in all red (with the exception of the helmet). Is this change in uniform something that the team voted on? Is it something that Nebraska fans should expect to see when the Huskers play Colorado or OU this year? Is there a chance that the Huskers will change their uniform style or design any time in the near future?
Scott Foreman
Kansas City, Mo.

Osborne: When we wore all white and all red uniforms, it was something the team voted on and wanted to do. We are not planning to change our uniform style or design in the near future.

I personally don't feel the color of a uniform has an effect on our performance and we are not planning on anything different for the Colorado or Oklahoma game.

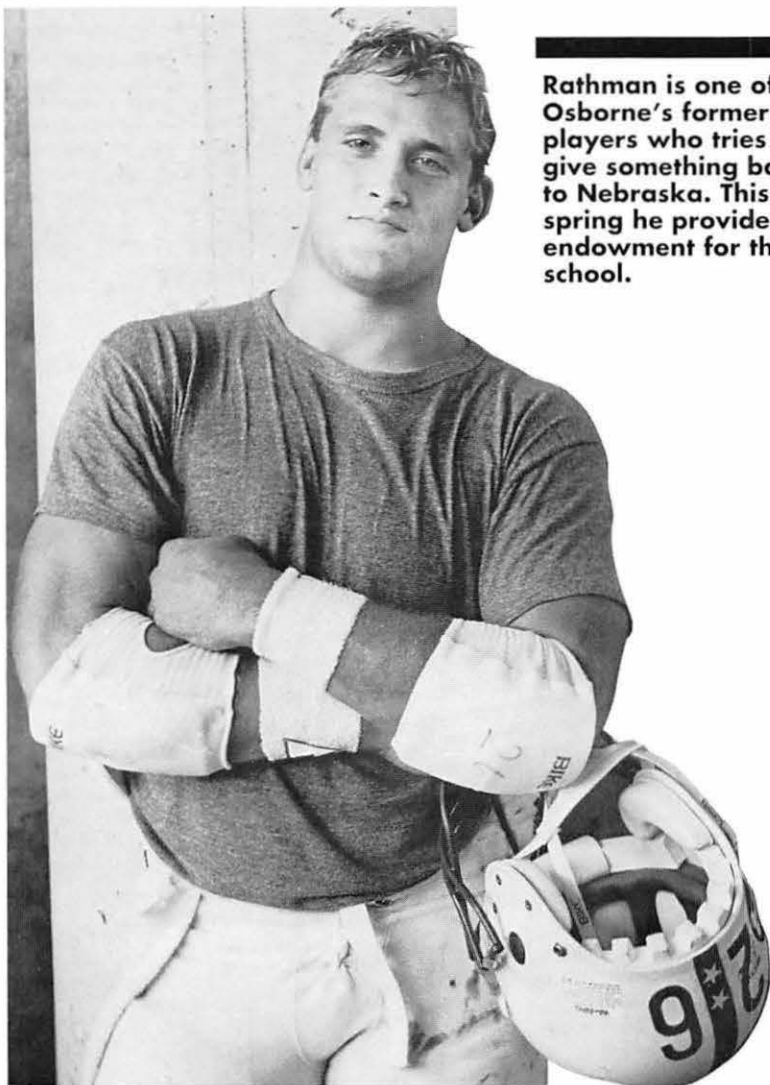
For work reasons, I was transferred to Oklahoma City four years ago. During my time here I have heard people complain about both OU and OSU and how the players that make it big tend to forget the schools that helped them get there (Brian Bosworth, Tony Casillas and Hart Lee Dykes). But then I read about Thurman Thomas giving OSU \$250,000. Now I don't know if it was just a publicity stunt, but I think that is what success is all about.

I was wondering if any of your former players have tried to give anything back to Nebraska and how well do you keep in touch with them.
Steve Kirkpatrick
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Osborne: Just this last spring Tom Rathman and his wife Holly donated a substantial endowment for our football program. Tom wanted to give something back to the football program and we appreciate that.

We do keep in touch with our former players and welcome any donations they can afford. Fund-raising has become very important for college athletics in order to maintain quality programs. We need to improve contributions from our fans as well as our former players.

Up until two years ago, it was always OU and Nebraska battling for the



Rathman is one of Osborne's former players who tries to give something back to Nebraska. This spring he provided an endowment for the school.

Big Eight Title. Then all of a sudden Colorado becomes a force. I was wondering which team you think will be next to come to the front in the conference and do you think either OU, CU or (God forbid) Nebraska will ever lose their dominance?

Mindy Short
Phoenix, Ariz.

Osborne: Fortunately we have been able to stay in the top two or three in the conference for a long time. We hope that will not change in the near future. Recent NCAA legislation is bringing about more parity in Division I football. Some Big Eight teams that I feel will be more competitive than in recent years are Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State.

What are your feelings on the television alliance between Notre Dame and NBC? Is this a trend of the future in collegiate athletics?

I have also read recently that the

NFL is thinking about switching their games from normal network television coverage to a pay-per-view set-up. Do you foresee something like this becoming a reality for collegiate athletics? Go Big Red!

Lynn Hennings
Portland, Ore.

Osborne: With the rising costs for athletic budgets one can hardly blame Notre Dame for agreeing to an alliance with NBC. At the same time, I hope college football doesn't become so expensive for the fans that they can't watch and enjoy the game. College athletics have been a positive form of entertainment for a long time and I would hate to see people deprived of watching athletics because of economic reasons.

If you have a question for Coach Tom Osborne, address it to **View from South Stadium**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. ■



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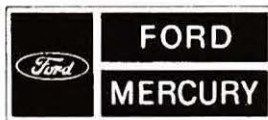
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